FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 1 of 3

PAGES AVAILABLE THIS PART 350

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## FILES CONTAINED IN THIS PART

| FILE # | PAGES AVAILABLE |
|---|---|
| 61-7398 (Volume 1) | 350 |
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KAT:TAM

RECORDED

61-7[illegible]-1

April 8, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KEENAN

With reference to your memorandum of March 19, 1935, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney General, under date of March 5, 1935, by Chief Post Office Inspector K. P. Alurich, and accompanied by a copy of a Confidential report prepared by Inspector J. F. Cordrey of Lima, Ohio, dated February 23, 1935, relating to the existence of an organization known as the "Black Legion", you are advised that I have received no indication that any employees of this Bureau are members of the "Black Legion". It does not appear, therefore, that any action is required of me in connection with this matter, and I am accordingly returning to you the original letter addressed to the Attorney General and the signed copy of Inspector Cordrey's report. I thought you might desire to refer this matter in its entirety to Mr. Stanley.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #718334

Mr. Nathan

Miss C

FILES SECTION
MAILED
APR 8 1935
1 copy P. M.
DIVISION OF INV
U. S. BUREAU

3

MFMcG:mpr

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

JBK

202600 - 2866-

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Backus
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 19, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Transmitted herewith please find a copy of a letter dated March 5, 1935, addressed to the Attorney General, from the Office of the Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department, relative to the alleged existence of an organization at Lima, Ohio, known as the "Black Legion", which is said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

An examination of the facts fails to disclose any violation of any Federal law or laws, but the observation has been made that representatives of the Department of Justice are reported to be members of the organization.

This information is forwarded to you for whatever action may seem appropriate in the premises.

Respectfully,

Joseph B. Keenan
Joseph B. Keenan
Assistant Attorney General.

3 Enclosure: 155104

RECORDED & INDEXED

APR 11 1935

Return & state there is no indication that any members of Bureau belong & consequently no action needed here. Might send it to Stanley. J.E.H.

16 - 7398-1

APR 9 1935 P.M.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

TAMM
ONE
FILE

ECO:FVK

195[illegible]

March 5, 1935.

The Honorable

The Attorney General.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information and any action that may be deemed advisable, there is attached copy of a report submitted under date of February 23, 1935, by Post Office Inspector J. W. Cordrey, relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio, of an organization known as the Black Legion, said to be revolutionary in its tendency. The uniform referred to is also being transmitted herewith.

It will be observed that, among others, representatives of the Department of Justice are reported to be members of the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

(Signed) K. P. Aldrich

Chief Inspector.

Inclosures.

61-7398-1

APR 11 1935

APR 9 1935

COPY

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Inspector

J. F. Cordrey,
Inspector.

Case No.
Lima, Ohio, February 23, 1935.

19566

Subject: Confidential

Inspector in Charge,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

1. A few days ago one of the most prominent men of Lima called me by telephone and requested an interview. He stated that it was his desire that the matter be regarded in strict confidence, at least to the extent that his name be not used, but that he believed it to be of sufficient importance to be brought by me to attention of the proper Government Agency.

2. It developed that this man had learned, through a person in his employ, of the existance in Lima of an organization known as the "Black Legion", which he believes to be against the present administration, and revolutionary in its tendency. An interview, at the suggestion of this man, was later had with the informant. It was learned from that young man that he had been a member this outfit, but that he had severed his connection, and that as result thereof his life is in more or less constant jeopardy.

3. I was informed that a person known as Dr. Shepard, Bellaire, Ohio, is the head of the Black Legion in the United States, and that they claim membership of one million five hundred thousand. It was related that the United States is divided into thirteen districts (patterning the thirteen original colonies) with a Major General in charge of each. The initials of Dr. Shepard are not known, but it is stated that this man either has a daughter or sister at Bellaire who is also a doctor. One Bert Effinger (former head of the Ku Klux Klan here) is said to be Major General of this district, and to have charge of all territory west of the Mississippi River. There is no initiation fee, but, it was explained, each member is required to pay Effinger 10 cents each month. These persons are ordinarily referred to, among themselves, as "blacks". The character of dress is black with separate cape effect and black head covering ornamented by white skull and cross bones.

61-7373-1

6

4. The Chief of Police, also the head of the plain clothes-force, at Lima are said to be members. Neither of these persons were selected for their positions because of any qualification.

5. New members are referred to as privates, and the entire method of organization is along the lines of the army service. A company is represented by 99 men and one Captain.

6. The meeting places at Lima are the "Ford Dance Hall", rooms used by the Junior Order of American Mechanics Lodge, and Harry Tapscott's farm, about halfway between Lima and West Minster. Harry Tabscott is recognized as a Major. Other Majors are Russell Croft, North Pine St., John Frankhouser, 783 So. Broadway, Lima. Captains are named as follows: O.L. Boyd, 1513 St. Johns Ave. Fisher W. Kibby, and one "Rotaberger" who is employed as mechanic for Gibson Co., Lima. Guy Effinger, 114 Harrison Ave., is Lieutenant Colonel, as is also one John Hawk, whose address is given as F.E. RA. (old Federal building).

7. It is stated that this organization is "hiding behind the old Ku Klux Klan and the Junior Order of American Mechanics, and it has recently been referred to in Lima as the "Bullet Club".

8. The method of obtaining members is by approaching a prospect, and asking whether he would like to join a good organization, and to leave the impression that its purpose is "protection" and aid in securing employment. The person approached is told that it is an "all American organization" and is asked to place his confidence in the solicitor. Approximately 80 per cent of the employees of the F.E.R.A. in Lima are said to be "Blacks", and they, without question, are under the control of "Major General Bert Effinger" whose son "Lieutenant Colonel Guy Effinger" is in the regular employ of the F. E. R. A. at Lima.

9. Initates take the oath with a "Black" standing on each side of him with drawn revolvers pointed at him. They are asked concerning their views of "mob violence" also the lynch law, also whether they will vote as directed. They are asked if they are willing to accept one man (Bert Effinger) as their "judge, jury and advisor". Inquiry is made as to whether they own a horse or automobile, and whether they possess any firearms. If they do not own a revolver, shot gun or rifle they are ordered to obtain a revolver and are instructed to carry it at all times. The maximum penalty for carrying concealed weapons in Ohio is three years imprisonment. They are supposed to take the witness stand and lie for a brother member, or, in the event of jury duty, "hang a jury" if a brother member's interests are involved, regardless of what the charge may be. It is related that Bert Effinger has at least ten men in Lima who will carry out his orders regardless of what they may be. I was told that men who refuse to take oath along these lines find themselves confronted

from all sides by black robed individuals with drawn revolvers; that they are then forcibly removed and threatened with death (sometimes beaten) if they ever reveal anything they have seen or heard. The only acceptable excuse for failure to attend a meeting is said to be "sickness or absence". "Once a member always a member". New members are given a loaded cartridge as a "token". They are directed to so conduct themselves that there may be no necessity of requesting its return. They are informed that if the cartridge is ever demanded it must be promptly surrendered, and that "half of it will be returned to them". Further that if they resign or abandon the organization their only escape from punishment is "suicide or leave the country".

10. I was told that Dr. Shepard has been heard to say that when the time comes "to take the field" it is not his desire to act in the capacity of surgeon, or words to that effect.

11. It was related that a certain person (former Major in the Black Legion) at Lima, was directed by "Major General Bert Effinger" some time in the past "to take 15 men and put a certain moving picture theatre out of business" merely because of the showing of a moving picture, that did not conform strictly with his views on religion. The Major refused. He demanded that Effinger explain, in the event of a riot or blood shed, who would go their bond, and was informed by Effinger that he (Effinger) would take care of them. The Major now "goes armed to the teeth" to protect himself against "outside members of the 'Black Legion Mob'". Other former members are harassed night and day by automobiles circling their homes. Wives are placed in mortal fear because of inquiries by strange men, in the absence of husbands.

12. I was informed that "Major General Effinger" is tireless in his denunciation of the administration in Washington, and that his trend is toward the views of Stalin in Russia. It does not seem that "privates" and others of lower rank than Major General in the "Black Legion" know what the real purpose of the organization is. As viewed by me it serves no good purpose, and should be thoroughly investigated by the proper Government Agency.

13. It is stated that Bert Effinger boasts that 62 members of the Department of Justice and other Bureaus of the Government are members of the Black Legion.

14. There is transmitted, under separate cover, a uniform of a Major of the "Black Legion".

/s/ J. F. Cordrey,
Inspector.

Respectfully referred to the Chief Inspector. The uniform referred to is being transmitted under separate cover.
(stamped) W. R. Briggs, Inspector in Charge.

8

339

AGB:AEK
61-7398 - 2

RECORDED

April 22, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith copies of a memorandum received from Mr. William Stanley, the Assistant to the Attorney General, dated April 15, 1935, requesting an investigation with a view to ascertaining the identities of the individuals connected with an organization known as the "Black Legion".

There are also being transmitted copies of a letter addressed to the Inspector in Charge, Cincinnati, Ohio, by J. F. Cordrey, Inspector, Post Office Department, dated February 23, 1935 in regard to this matter. This will be of assistance in conducting the requested investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Inclosure No. 839056

MAILED
★ APR 23 1935 ★

WILLIAM STANLEY
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Department of Justice
## Washington

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Bachus
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

April 15, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

Assistant Attorney General Keenan has sent me a memorandum relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio, of an organization known as the "Black Legion", said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

In view of the fact that it is alleged that sixty-two employees of this Department are members of this organization, I wish that you would conduct an investigation with a view to ascertaining who they are.

William Stanley
The Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED

APR 25 1935

61-7398-2

APR 23 1935

TAMM for CAD

Letter Cleveland 4/22/35 ABB.

AGB:CSH:MAM:BR
61-7398 -3

May 11, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 22, 1935, requesting an investigation concerning the identities of individuals connected with an organization known as the "Black Legion".

There are being transmitted herewith copies of a letter received from Mr. [redacted] Police, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, Baltimore, Maryland, dated April 26, 1935, which apparently pertains to this matter. In the event additional information is desired from Mr. [redacted] it is suggested that appropriate leads be indicated for the Washington Field Office.

Very truly yours,

61-7398-3

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

Enclosure #284396.

FILED SECTION
MAILED
MAY 11 1935
P. M.
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 13 1935

11

EAT:TAM

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-4

May 17, 1935

Mr. [redacted]

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I have received your letter of April 26, 1935, which transmitted a memorandum relating to a secret organization known as the "Black Legion", which is reported to be in existence at Fort Wayne, Indiana. While the facts outlined in this memorandum do not appear to constitute a violation of any Federal Statute coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I am glad to have this information, which is being incorporated in the Bureau's files. In the event additional information is desired concerning this organization, I will instruct a Special Agent of the Bureau to call upon you.

I desire to express my appreciation for your courtesy in transmitting this material to me and to assure you of my desire to cooperate with you at all times in matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

FILES OF MATTER
MAY 18 1935
P. M.
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6000 10 20 34 800 J A

# The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company

## The Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad Company

POLICE DEPARTMENT

[redacted]

R. J. DOYLE, SUPT. POLICE
NEW YORK TERMINAL LINES, NEW YORK, N. Y.
T. L. ROWE, SUPT. POLICE,
EASTERN LINES, BALTIMORE, MD.
F. J. YOUNG, SUPT. POLICE,
WESTERN LINES B. & O. C. T. R. R. } CINCINNATI, OHIO

BALTIMORE, MD. April 26, 1935.

[redacted]

SUBJECT: Secret organization at Fort Wayne, Ind.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am attaching memorandum concerning a secret organization at Fort Wayne, Ind.

I do not know whether or not you will be interested in this affair, as at the present moment I am not in position to state whether this is purely a local organization or whether it has an interstate angle. I would assume that it is of interstate character, and I thought you might be interested in its activities.

This information comes to me confidentially from one of my Division Captains, and while the Baltimore & Ohio R.R. has no direct interest in the matter, our department endeavors to keep in touch with any activities that might be of interest to any law-enforcing agency.

I am in position to get further information concerning this organization, if the matter is of sufficient interest to you.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
LED/bja

MAY 21 1935

Youre very truly,

61-7398-4

RECORDED [redacted]
&
INDEXED [redacted]

1-1

73

10

Baltimore, April 26, 1935.

Information was received to the effect that during the last few weeks solicitation was made to various persons to join a secret organization at Ft. Wayne, Ind.

This organization meets every Saturday night at 8:30 on the third floor of the building directly across the street from the Majestic Theatre, Ft. Wayne.

The organization is known as "The Black Legion." There are no membership dues or fees, a collection being taken up at each meeting, and other contributions are solicited.

Men initiated into this organization are called "Recruits" and are made "Black Knight" by initiation, the officers being known as Chief, Colonel, and Major, all of whom are armed during the meeting. The countersign is similar to a military salute, and the pass-words are "Elect only Americans to office." All members are asked what arms they possess and whether they are willing to secure arms and ammunition and use them at the command of the officers of the organization. The word "Luxor", followed by the name of a city or other location, will constitute a command that members report at that place, armed.

As a badge, the members are presented with a 38 calibre pistol cartridge. Examination of this cartridge fails to show any peculiar marks on the shell.

On April 20th the speaker at the meeting was a peg-legged man, his left leg being amputated, also his right thumb. This man derided both political parties, all fraternal organizations, and all churches. This meeting was attended by about 175 men, and about 25 candidates were initiated.

All persons connected with this organization are very close-mouthed. The members were warned that the penalty for disloyalty to the organization is death.

61-7398-4

334

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

June 1, 1935

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th NW
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION
Miscellaneous
Confidential

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory
CH 6/6

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent S. E. Smith, dated 5-24-35, relative to the above-captioned case, wherein it is stated that one 45 calibre Colt Automatic pistol, with identifying numbers on same obliterated, had been obtained from a former member of the Legion.

The gun in question is being forwarded, under separate cover, and it is requested that the same be given appropriate laboratory examination in an endeavor to ascertain number of same for the purpose of tracing the gun to its last owner.

Very truly yours,

J. P. MacFarland

J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

Parsons
Harrington

CES:h

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
JUN 8 1935

61-1911-5
FILED
JUN 5 1935
TWO
FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 4607

Laboratory Report

June 12, 1935.

Case: Black Legion; Miscellaneous; Confidential.

Number: 61-7398-3

Specimens:

One 45 calibre Colt Automatic revolver with number obliterated.

Examination requested by: Cleveland Bureau Office.

Date received: June 6, 1935.

Examination requested: Ballistic

Result of examination: Examination by: [redacted]

Test cartridges have been fired in the above gun. These test bullets and shells have been compared with all evidence specimens of that type contained in the files of the Bureau's Laboratory, but no identification was effected.

These test specimens will be filed in the Laboratory for possible future reference.

The serial number was restored and found to be #251440.

There was also restored the inscription "United States Property", which establishes this gun as government property.

This gun will be retained in the Laboratory collection of firearms.

3 - Director.
2 - Cleveland.
2 - Laboratory.

16

REJ:CDT
61-7398 — 6

RECORDED

June 29, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of June 14, 1935, enclosing the laboratory report dated June 12, 1935, in connection with one .45 calibre Colt Automatic with number obliterated, which was subsequently found to be 251440.

A review has been made of the Bureau's files, but there was found no record concerning this gun.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAH:BC

June 14, 1935.

61-7398-6

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion;
Miscellaneous;
~~Confidential~~.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Division June 6, 1935.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #584034.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION # 4607
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

June 12, 1935.

Case: Black Legion;
Miscellaneous;
Confidential.

Number: 61-7398-5

Specimens:

One 45 calibre Colt Automatic revolver with number obliterated.

Examination requested by: Cleveland Bureau Office.

Date received: June 6, 1935.

Examination requested: Ballistic

Result of examination:

Examination by: Harrington

Test cartridges have been fired in the above gun. These test bullets and shells have been compared with all evidence specimens of that type contained in the files of the Bureau's Laboratory, but no identification was effected.

These test specimens will be filed in the Laboratory for possible future reference.

The serial number was restored and found to be #251440.

There was also restored the inscription "United States Property", which establishes this gun as government property.

This gun will be retained in the Laboratory collection of firearms.

3 - Director.
2 - Cleveland.
2 - Laboratory.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-6

JUL 6 1935

19

AGB:RD
71-7398
61-7339
61-7398-7

June 15, 1935

RECORDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. WILLIAM STANLEY

Your attention is invited to your memorandum dated April 15, 1935 relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio of an organization known as the Black Legion, which is said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent C. E. Smith dated at Cleveland, Ohio, May 24, 1935 concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure 307608

DECLASSIFIED BY 16080
ON 9-30-77
LED/DJW

declassified Tim
18-3-77 BSM/jc

RECEIVED
MAILED
JUN 15 1935
P.M.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUSTICE

316

DIVISION OF I STIGATION
FROM: UNIT #1 & UNIT #3

_____, 1934.

TO: ___Director
___Mr. Nathan
___Mr. Tolson
___Mr. Edwards
___Unit Two
___Unit Five
___Identification Unit
___Statistical Section
___Technical Laboratory
___Unit Four
___Files Section
___Personnel Files
___Equipment Section
___Chief Clerk's Office

SUPERVISORS

Unit One
___Mr. Listerman
___Mr. Lowdon
___Mr. McKee
___Mr. Newby
___Mr. Richmond
___Mr. Thompson

Unit Three
___Mr. Deaderick
___Mr. Joseph
___Mr. Smith

___Miss Gandy
___Mrs. Kelley
___Washington Field Office
___Stenographic Pool
___Secretary
___Correct
___Re-write
___Re-date
___See me
___Send file

Return file Bureau

Send copy of Lead 3 of 61-7333 to Cleveland for info.; also suggest lead for Mr. Keator.

E. A. TAMM - Room 5107

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO — FILE NO. 62-3 ah

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLEVELAND, OHIO | 5/24/35 | 5/21/35 | [redacted] |

TITLE: BLACK LEGION / NIGHT RIDERS / BULLET CLUB

CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Secret organization national in scope and military in nature, apparently organized by Dr. Shepard, of Bellaire, O. Membership restricted to native-born, white, gentile, protestant citizens. Former members. state organization is revolutionary and is terrorizing former members for withdrawing. General of organization, at Lima, O., has ordered subordinates to wreck picture shows, burn roadhouses and assault individuals. Organization purports to have completely equipped machine gun company in Detroit, Mich. Former members advise 80% of FERA employes at Lima, O., are members and relief in district is controlled by head or order. Chief of Police, Lima, is reputed to be a member; General of Legion, Lima, stated to former member that 60 to 70 members of Department Justice were members; also stated that Cincinnati, O., agent was admitted to order fall '34. Event of unknown nature scheduled for Nov. 20-26. Ritual, organization and partial list of members set forth.

- P. -

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 ON 4-30-77
LED/b/a

REFERENCES: Bureau letters dated 4-22-35 and 5-11-35.

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Agent interviewed Mr. J. F. Cordrey, Post Office Inspector, stationed at Lima, Ohio, who advised he had been approached on numerous

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. Phac Barland — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES: 61 7398 7

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
3 - Bureau
2 - Detroit
2 - Cincinnati
3 - Cleveland

MAY 27 A.M.

JUN 18 1935

JUN 20 1935

STAT. SECT.

occasions in the past by various individuals who had requested the investigation a secret order known as the Black Legion, and more popularly known locally as the Bullet Club.

According to Mr. Cordrey, several ex-members had complained to him that since they had refused to go to the meetings machine loads of men had night-ly driven past their homes and prowlers had gone to the extent of peering in their windows; that their women folk had become frightened by strange men calling during their husbands' absence and various other activities that served to intimidate the ex-members.

Mr. Cordrey further advised agent that a man known by the name of Bert Effinger, former head of the Ku Klux Klan, in Lima, O., was apparently the head of the organization in the district and was known as "General Effinger" and his son, Guy, was "Lt. Colonel", employed by the Federal Emergency Relief Association in Lima. Cordrey stated he had occasion to call upon Mr. Effinger about the time it became known that the ex-members had complained to him, and Effinger during the time he was conversing with Cordrey was called by his son on the telephone, saying, "Father, that man is not to leave the house for a half hour". Their conversation, (Cordrey and Effinger, Sr.,) took place in latter's office, located in the basement of his home. Cordrey stated that the call was made apparently to try and frighten him, but he advised Effinger he would leave whenever he saw fit to do so.

Continuing, Cordrey stated that Effinger had called at his office a short time back and gave him a letter, which reads as follows:

1114 Harrison Ave.
Lima, Ohio
May 3rd, 1935

"Mr. J. F. Cordry
Postal Inspector
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

"Refering to our conversation some time back concerning the activities of certain men in and around Lima, Ohio, I am presenting to you the names of men, a part of which have been closely connected with the only registered Communist in Allen County, Ohio.

"Mr. George Armstrong
Mr. Kenneth Carter
Mr. George Pratt
Mr. George Scheid
A man by the name of Sanders or Sonders.

"A man by the name of Martin, who is reported to be a State or Federal Officer, spends a great deal of his time at the Cook residence, which is his God-given right, and seems to be directing some of their unamerican activities according to the statement of Mrs. Cook.



73

62-3

"I hereby pledge alligience tothe Stars and Stri[redacted]s our flag, the United States of America, the republic for which it [redacted]tands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice to all.

"Thanking you for your patience, and wishing you God speed and success in your efforts to do good, I am

Truly yours in all things

Honerable
/s/ V. H. Effinger."

The original of the above letter was turned over to agent by Mr. Cordrey and is retained in the files of this case at Cleveland, Ohio.

With reference to the persons mentioned in the letter by Effinger as being connected with Communists, Cordrey advised that [redacted] was an employee of th[redacted] in Lima and a former [redacted] of the Legion and one of the persons who had complained to him about the organization. Scheid was a respectable business man and a former officer of the Legion, and at present one of the moving spirits behind the fight to expose the Legion; [redacted] of Cordrey's and had at one time served a sentence at Atlanta for violation, National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, but since his release in '29 had endeavored to go straight and had assisted him materially on several occasions when he needed information on various matters regarding the underworld. This man became a member of the Legion at the request of John B. Martin, former investigator for the FERA at the time threats had been made to blow up the Old Post Office Building. Mr. [redacted] was also a former member of the Legion and had been discriminated against in the matter of relief and had been haraesed to such an extent by the myeterious actions of other members of the Legion that his wife had called upon practically every Law enforcement agency in the county and city for assistance in breaking up the organization. Relative to the discrimination against Mr. [redacted] by the FERA, Dordrey stated that [redacted] had given out that information but Dordrey had no direct evidence bearing upon it.

Mr. Cordrey further stated he did not know the Armstrong or Sanders mentioned in the letter, but advised that the Martin mentioned was J.B. Martin, investigator for the FERA.

At Agent's request Mr. Cordrey had Mr. [redacted] come to his office, where he qas questioned by the writer and [redacted] said h[redacted] was a [redacted] residing at [redacted] and had joined the Bl[redacted]k Legion about three years ago and had worked up until he became a [redacted] in the order. [redacted] further stated when he joined there were [redacted] members in the order in Allen County, but it had since grown to about [redacted]000 and that when he first joined he had been told that the order was to be a patriotic one and against all sorts of Communism and other isms but at the present time it was distinctly revolutionary in that the heads of the organization were attempting to use it to gain control of various Gov-

ernment agencies.

Continuing, Mr. [redacted] stated that after he became [redacted] he started to disagree with some of the policies of General Bert Effinger and finally broke away from the order about a year ago, when Effinger had ordered him to take 20 men go to the Sigma Theatre in Lima, Ohio, and there destroy a film that was being shown.

Mr. [redacted] stated that the name of the picture was the "White Angel" and Effinger objected to it on the grounds that it upheld the Catholic faith. According to [redacted], he had heard a discussion in the basement of Effinger's home on the advisability of taking over the Federal Buildings by the Legion and had also heard Effinger brag about the Legion burning down a roadhouse known as the "Twin Oaks", which was located about three miles south of Lima, Ohio, on US Route 25, as well as the burning of the "Imperial Roadhouse" located on US Route 25, near Wapakoneta, Ohio. Mr. [redacted] advised the writer that after he had dropped out of the order he had been approached on numerous occasions and warned that he had better look out and on one occasion during the winter of '34 about 50 carload of men had collected around his house, and he had been forced into calling several of his friends to stay with him for protection; further stated that he now went armed and had warned Effinger that if anything happened to either Carter, Pratt or a man by the name of Albert Urfer, who is also a former member, he, Effinger would be the next one to get it.

Mr. [redacted] was contacted by agent and he advised that he had been a member of the Black Legion and had attended the meetings until about 7 weeks ago when he became disgusted with the revolutionary tactics of the order; [redacted] stated he was a private of the Foot Legion of the Night Riders, a degree of the Black Legion; according to [redacted] a select number of the Blacks, as all members of the Legion are known to each other, was banded together in a unit known as the "Bullet Club."

According to [redacted] a John B. Martin, investigator for the FERA, who lives at Sandusky, O., had been investigating the FERA at Lima, Ohio, after a rumor had started that the Bullet Club was going to blow up the Old Post Office Building and [redacted] had been hired by Mr. J. C. Timberlake, former supervisor of the FERA, to find out what and where the connection was that existed between employes of the FERA and the Black Legion, and during the course of his investigation he had found that [redacted]0% of the FERA employes were members of the organization and Guy Effinger, son of V. H. Effinger, was a Lt. Colonel of the organization and travelling timekeeper for the FERA.

Continuing, Mr. [redacted] advised that after he became a member of the Legion he had been handed a penciled note written on the back of a daily report form of the State Emergency Relief Administration, reading,

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[redacted] Priestap, Jr., "John has got the rawhide now. /s/ Russ" - by Russell Croft, a traveling timekeeper for the FERA. According to [redacted] Priestap is a member of the Black Legion and so is Russ, meaning Russell Croft.

The above-mentioned note was turned over to agent by Mr. Cordrey, who had received it from [redacted] and same is being retained in the files of this case. Mr. Cordrey also gave agent a due card of the Legion, which is made as an ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROSPECT CARD, and same is being retained in the files of this case.

The John mentioned in the above note is, according to [redacted] John Hawk, a foreman of the FERA. [redacted] further stated that on one occasion he had been called on the "carpet" by General Effinger and was accused of talking to Federal men and had been told by the General that all Federal men who came to Lima had to report their arrival to him, and, in the future, any Federal men that [redacted] saw he was to immediately report their presence in the town to the General. [redacted] later found out through J. Martin that a Roy Hoover, janitor of 210½ West Market St., and also a Black had notified Martin that two "Feds" were in town; subsequent investigation by Martin revealed that the two "Feds" names were Fleming and Madden. (It will be noted here that Fleming and Madden are the names of the two State Prohibition men who worked this territory and are mentioned in the Brekid file in connection with the investigation of that case in the Toledo, O., district.)

Later in the day Mr [redacted] called at agent's hotel room with two men who were introduced as [redacted] a Major in the Legion and Mr. [redacted] a former Captain of the Legion.

Agent questioned [redacted] and [redacted] relative to their knowledge of the Legion, who stated they had joined the Legion about two years ago, when it was held up as a patriotic organization that had been formed to combat the various isms that were then gaining a foothold in the country, but had been forced to withdraw when they had been ordered to commit several felonious acts.

[redacted] stated he had been ordered by General Bert Effinger to burn the roadhouse known as "Peacock Inn", but had refused to do so and had later been ordered by the General to steal some dynamite from a job that the General was watchman on. [redacted] was unable to advise agent for what purpose the dynamite was to be used. According to [redacted] a man had recently come to him and stated he had been approached by a man, named Homer Taylor, who requested the man to place his confidence in him and join an organization that could within a very short period of time have thousands of men marching on Washington. [redacted] stated that Taylor was a Major of the Legion, and he had advised the man not to have anything to do with him; further stating he had caused about 50 men to become members of the

Legion, but had since convinced them that he had been wrong in his beliefs and had caused them to drop out, but that owing to the manner in which the Legion had been intimidating those who had dropped out they could not talk for fear of reprisals.

Continuing, Mr. [redacted] stated he had on numerous occasions heard Effinger state that about 60 or 70 members of the Department of Justice were members of the Legion and related that about Nov. 1934 there had been a rumor that the Bullet Club of the Legion was going to blow up the old Post Office and, as a result of that rumor, a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati, O., had conducted an investigation, which resulted in the detention and questioning of a Black by the name of Kane, who was later released, and Effinger stated to [redacted] that the agent was joining the Legion and would be initiated that week. [redacted] was unable to furnish agent with the date of Kane's detention or the name of the agent; however, [redacted] stated that, as he recalled it, his name was "Smith".

Agent was further advised by Mr. [redacted] that Effinger had a large yellow map at his home he kept in the rafters of the basement, and according to Effinger, it was a map of the location of all of the secret fortifications of the country. In this connection, [redacted] stated that Effinger had told him that under the Statue of Liberty were concealed several large coast defense guns of the disappearing type.

Agent was further advised by Mr. [redacted] that General Effinger had told him that the Detroit, Mich., unit of the Legion had one fully-equipped company of machine guns and one battalion of (Blacks) equipped with army rifles. [redacted] further advised agent that about two years ago he had attended target practice of the Legion at Bowling Green, Ohio, and while there had been introduced to General UPPS, (phonetic spelling), who was introduced as a Government man. [redacted] was unable to state what department of the Government that UPPS was with, but described him as 40 years old, 5' 10" in ht., dark hair, with dark complexion, and driving a Ford V-8 Sedan. Agent was further advised at the same time he met an ex-Detroit police officer by the name of IKE WHITE, who lost his leg in a gun battle with the Purple Gang. White is also supposed to be a member of the Legion.

Continuing, [redacted] advised the writer that the Legion was continually striving to have its members join the National Guard; in this connection, writer advised by Mr. [redacted] that he had once been ordered by General Effinger to so distribute his men that each guardsman would be covered by several Blacks and when the time came to take over the Armory and capture the rifles and ammunition the Blacks assigned to each guardsman was to overcome them, in order to insure the capture of the guns. [redacted] further stated that he had overheard Effinger and others discussing the son of Dr. [redacted], [redacted] Lakewood Avenue, who was supposed to own a Thompson submachine gun, and they were planning to pose as Federal men and call upon him and confiscate the gun for the Legion. [redacted] also informed agent that he had heard that a [redacted] driver in town had a machine gun, but he had no additional information [redacted] the identity of the man.

During the course of the interrogation [redacted] exhibited to agent a 45 cal. Colt Automatic pistol, which he stated he had purchased from Charles Hartzog for $8.00, further stating that the same gun had been given to [redacted] by Hartzog, together with 65 cartridges and had been later taken away by Hartzog. At the time Hartzog gave the gun to [redacted] he stated that "they" had taken it in a raid on some Catholics in another county. Agent examined this gun and found that both the secret number and the number of the outside of the gun had been filed off. In view of the fact that some thefts of the above-described guns have been reported from various armories, agent requested the gun and same will be forwarded to the Laboratory for examination.

[redacted] informed the writer he had been ordered at one time by General Effinger to "bash in the head" of a man, because he would not attend meetings.

Both [redacted] and [redacted] advised agent that at the last meeting on May 14, '35, the Blacks had been instructed to secure arms and be prepared to expect something between November 20th and 26th of the year. Agent was unable to secure any information as to what that "something" was.

Continuing, [redacted] advised that about a year ago he had personally disarmed Ward Taylor, Chief of Police, when he was being admitted into the Legion, further stating that on one occasion the Lima police had received a broadcast relative to a holdup and had picked up several men in a machine answering the description of the holdup getaway car, but subsequent investigation had revealed that the men were Blacks just returning from a meeting and despite the fact that they were all armed they had been released without being charged. [redacted] further stated that it was impossible to get the local police to do anything regarding the terrorist methods of the Black Legion, in view of the fact that both the Chief of Police and the head of the Plain Clothes' force were Blacks.

Mr. [redacted] supplied agent with a 38 cal. lead-nosed short bullet made by the U.S.C. Co. for the 38 S&W, and same is being forwarded to the Bureau laboratory for investigation.

According to Mr. [redacted] a like bullet is furnished each Recruit being admitted to membership in the Black Legion, and they are told upon its presentation that they are to so conduct themselves that it will never be nedessary for the Legion to ask for its return and in the event that its return is asked one-half of it will be returned, meaning the LEAD end.

Mr. [redacted] advised agent that one of the rules of the Legion is that the only way that one can ever sever his connection with it is to leave the country or commit suicide; further stated that afterhe left the order someone, whose identity was not known to him, left a note on his doorstep, advising him to either commit suicide or leave the country. The note was not mailed.

Agent was further informed by Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] that they had heard of whipping squads, hanging squads and killing squads

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in the order and stated that at the present time there were eight names on the death list, whose death warrants had been signed by General Sloan of Sidney, Ohio, who is an employee of the State Highway Department.

The following information relative to the history, ritual, organization, officers, members and meeting places of the Order were furnished agent by Messrs. [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and Scheid.

The Black Legion, historical in itself, was first formed prior to the Revolutionary War, and it was this organization that organized the Boston Tea Party, after the Colonies won their independence; there being no more need for the existance of the Order it disbanded; however, those who were Generals at that time, there being one General for each of the 13 colonies, handed down their rank to their sons, and thus the order was kept alive. The next time that the Order felt it must become active was immediately after the Civil War, and a band of gorillas under Quantrell was organized and operated until they had satisfactorily straightened out the country. It was again disbanded and has now been reorganized as the country is once again being threatened by various sorts of ISMS. *(Note: the above is part of the speech made by General Effinger at msetings.)

RITUAL and INITIATION:

Members are armed and masked, recruits are lined up for preliminary questions and oath. Grounds are patrolled by masked armed guards.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD:

1. Are you a native-born, white, gentile, protestant citizen?
2. Do you understand that this organization you are about to join is strictly secret and military in character?
3. This organization is classed by our enemies as an outlaw organization; are you willing to join such an organization?

(The above questions are asked each recruit.)

PRELIMINARY OATH:

Kneel on your right knee; place your left hand over your heart and raise your right hand; repeat after me: (Say I and repeat your name.)

"Do solemnly promise and swear that I will never reveal any part or portion of the work I have already received or that which is about to be commutated to me. I further promise and swear I will never reveal a single word of anything that has transpired here tonight or the identify of anyone I may recognize in case I am refused membership in this organization. The penalty for violation of this oath is - DEATH.

(The recruits having passed this test and placed under oath are now taken before the larger body of Night Riders and surrounded by armed masked men.)

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QUESTIONS BY COLONEL:

Address of Captain to Colonel presenting Recruits:

(Military Salute by Captain):

"I present these recruits for further interrogation; they have answered the preliminary questions satisfactory and have come well-recommended by friends in this organization; they have been bound by oath not to reveal anything that transpires here tonight or the identity of anyone they may recognize in case they are refused admission to this organization."

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you live?
3. How old are you?
4. Are you a protestant?
5. What church do you belong to, or believe in?

LECTURE BY CHAPLAIN:

"This organization is one of chivalry and daring, following footsteps of the gorilla bands of the south and is based on southern chivalry; by our enemies were classed as outlaws and outlaws we are, indeed; we have no charter; if we were chartered, our roster would have to be available at all times. You have already signified your willingness to join such an organization. We class as our enemied all negroes, Jews, Catholics and anyone owing any allegiance to any foreign potentate. We fight as gorillas, using any weapon that may come to our hand, preferably the ballot, and, if necessary, by bearing arms. The Republican party are in the grasp of the rich, while the Democrats seem to be in the clutches of the Pope. Our forefathers won this land from the savages and paid for it with their blood. The purpose of war is to kill, for did not God make it honorable to kill; did he not cast Lucifer out of Heaven. Our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, destroy and kill our enemies without mercy as long as one enemy remains alive or breath remains. Black Knights come to the sign of the Death Head and the slogan of a Night-Rider is - UNTIL DEATH.

QUESTIONS BY COLONEL:

Will you accept an order and go to your death, if necessary, to carry it out?
Will you accept for your bed the earth, your roof the sky, your reward-Death?
Will you oppose with the ballot and, if necessary, by bearing arms any attempt to place public tax money in the hands of Roman Catholics for use in their schools or use in their buildings or institutions?
Will you accept one man as your Judge, Jury and Attorney for the Defense?

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Do you believe in the separation of church and state?
Will you lie to protect a comrade in this organization, if ordered to do so by your superior officer?
To what political organization do you now belong? Will you forget your party and vote for the best man if ordered to do so by your superior officer?
Can you keep a secret?

(On the last question a phoney password is passed around and one of the Blacks purposely repeats it, and then he is taken out and hung before all the recruits; a special harness is used and the rope is hooked on; a strap in the back; in the dark it looks like a true hanging. Carter stated that he has frequently been the victim in this act.)

COLONEL to LIEUT. COLONEL:

"Do you think these men have shown their fitness to join this organization by their answers to questions?" Answer: "Sir, I wish to subject these men to further questioning, have I your permission?" Answer: "You have."

QUESTIONS BY LIEUT. COLONEL:

"Can you ride a horse and shoot a rifle?"
"Are you properly armed?"
"Will you properly arm yourself as soon as possible?"
"Do you believe in Lynch Law?"
"Will you sign your name in Blood?"

LIEUT. COLONEL TO COLONEL:

"Sir, these men have answered all questions properly, and if they are bound by the oath that we are bound by - they are acceptable tome."

BLACK OATH:

Kneel on your right knee; place your left hand over your heart; raise your right arm, repeat after me: (Orders are then given to cover these men with loaded guns, and if they fail or falter, you know your duty.)

"In the name of God and Devil and by the power of light and darkness, good and evil, here under the black arch of heavens avenging symbol, I pledge and consecrate my body, my limbs, my heart and my mind and swear by all powers of Heaven and Hell that I will devote my life to the obedience of my superior officers in this organization and that I will never betray a comrade in this organization. I further promise and swear that I will destroy, without mercy, all FEDERALS, Jay Hawkers and their abetors, whose serpent trail has winnowed the fair fields of our allies and sympathizers; these I will fight without mercy as long as breath remains. Before divulging a single work or implied pledge of this, my solemn oath, and obligation, I will pray to an avenging God and unmerciful Devil that

my limbs be broken with stones and cut off by inches; that they may be food for carion birds; that my body be ripped open and my bowels torn out and fed to the foulest birds of the air, and that my head be split open and my brains scattered over the earth, my heart be torn out and roasted over flames of sulphur. And, lastly, may my soul be given unto torment, may it be submerged in a molten metal and stifled in the flames of Hell, and may this punishment be meeted out to me through all eternity."

SIGNS AND PASS WORDS:

Pass word: PUT (name of place) Americans only on guard.

Call word: LIXTO (When this word is received by a Black Knight, either by word of mouth, telephone, telegraph or mail, he is supposed to drop anything he is doing and take up arms and go to the place named: for instance, if a call was made for Cleveland, the word would be LIXTO, CLEVELAND)

Test word: (Under the star of the guard, which is answered by the party approached saying -Until Death).

Signs: At night-time either a flashlight, match or auto headlights are flashed three times, and if the party flashed is a Black, he will answer with three flashes. In day-time the hat is pushed back on the head three times and is answered the same way. Any sign may be used in multiples of three and must be answered the same way.

Two copies of the above ritual were furnished to agent by Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted]; however, it will be noted that the part where the candidate is asked if he will accept one man to be his Judge, Jury and Attorney for the defense is not in it; Mr. [redacted] stated that at the present time that question is asked and has, therefore, been placed in the above.

DEGREES:

1. Lowest rank - Foot Legion
2. - Night Riders
3. - Black Knight
4. - Armed Guard
5. - Bullet Club (consists of only selected Black Knights)

ORGANIZATION:

1. Squad - consists of 6 men and a corporal.
2. Company - consists of 78 privates, 18 corporals, 6 sergeants, 1 2d lieut., 1 1st lieut. and 1 captain.
3. Battalion - consists of 3 companies and is commanded by a major
4. Regiment - consists of 3 battalions and is commended by a Colonel.

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Lieut. Colonels, Major Generals and Brigadier Generals are assistants to the General, who is in charge of one thirteenth of the U. S. In this connection, Mr [redacted] stated that he had heard that Senator Huey Long of La. was a General. However, he was unable to state who had told him, but did state that General Effinger had distributed about $20 worth of Long's speeches to the membership.

PARTIAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. Shepard | Bellaire, Ohio | Organizer and reputed head of Legion |
| Claude Sutter | " " | Assistant to Dr. Shepard |
| Mrs. Dr. Shepard | " " | Sister of Dr. Shepard and head of women's auxiliary |
| Bert Effinger | Lima, Ohio | Major General, in charge of all territory -Lima,O. to west coast. |
| Jack Frankhouser | " " | Major and body to Effinger |
| Charles Hartzog | " " | 1st Lieut. sold 45 automatic to Carter |
| O. L. Boyd | " " | Intelligence Squad, works at Lima, News as a foreman; News is only paper in Lima. |
| Mei Nevergall | Unknown | Captain |
| Guy Effinger | Lima, Ohio | Lt. Colonel, son of General Effinger and travelling timekeeper for FERA. |
| Frank Barber | Unknown | Colonel |
| Harry Tapscot | near Lima | Lt. Colonel; meetings are held on his farm several houses containing dynamite are located here. Supposed to belong to a Mr. Jones, a hardware man. |
| (?) Rodaburger | not known | Captain |
| Russell Croft | Lima, Ohio | Major, travelling timekeeper for FERA |
| L. E. Doty | Lima, Ohio | Major, Principal of Jefferson School |
| Homer Taylor | not known | Major |
| Bill Fisher | Lima, Ohio | Captain |
| Wm. Leffler | not known | Major |
| Ray Clemens | Lima. Ohio | Captain, bodyguard of Effinger's |
| Wilbur Sherritts | " " | Captain and member of Intelligence Squad |
| Dale Archer | " " | Lieut., works for FERA |
| Bob Roush | " " | Captain, FERA timekeeper. |
| Roy Hoover | " " | Lieut., janitor, 210½ W. Market St. |
| Cransom McClure | not known | |
| Homer Murry | Lima, Ohio | FERA employee |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Parkins | Lima, Ohio | |
| Ed. Dubler | " " | |
| Walter Jackson | " " | |
| Don Painter | " " | |
| Ed. Wise | " " | |
| (?) Joseph | " " | |
| Roy Diltz | " " | Political contact man |
| Ward Taylor | " " | Chief of Police, Lima, O. |
| (?) Sloan | Sidney | General, employee State Highway Dept., supposed to sign all death warrants of errant members. |
| Bill Zimmerman | Lima, O. | Former FERA paymaster |
| Glen Webb | " " | Present FERA paymaster |
| Dick Adams | " " | Employed by FERA |
| (?) Marsh | " " | " " " |
| Ed Worthington | " " | " " " as janitor |
| L. M. Neal | " " | " " " as door watchman |
| Stewart Gaugh | " " | " " " |
| (?) McGinnis | " " | " " " night man |
| (?) Riley | " " | " " " in transfer office |
| (?) Simone | " " | " " " Electrical foreman |
| Amy McGinnis | Lima, Ohio | " " " as nurse (aux'lry lodge) |
| Mrs. Shafer | " " | " " " telephone switchboard (in aux.lodge) |

MEETING PLACES in LIMA, OHIO

Old Ford Dance Hall, Findlay Rd and Sugar St.
Order United American Mechanics Hall, N. Main and Wayne
Ku Klux Klan Hall, South Central St.
132 E. 5th - only a company meeting place.
Tapscot Farm, Bellefontaine Rd., 3 miles east of Lima, O.
Old P.O. Bldg., used by the FERA at present; basement used for meetings of FERA employes.
Cridersville Town Hall, 7 miles south of Lima, O., (The marshal is a member.)

DATES OF MEETINGS AND ROSTER OF MEMBERS:

There are not stated meetings; same are called by the officers at their will and the word is passed around by mouth. The only roster of members kept is that in the possession of each Captain: ie, a list of the members of his company.

The following addresses were obtained by agent from Mr. Cordrey, who stated that they were the return addresses on mail that had been recently received by Bert Effinger:

| | |
|---|---|
| 521 North County Line St., | Fostoria, Ohio |
| 1716 Richardson St. | Ft. Wayne, Indiana |
| 37 Campau St., NW | Grand Rapids, Mich. |
| 1810 Munsford Road | Toledo, Ohio |
| American Progress Publishing Co., | New Orleans, La. |
| 202 Georgia Ave., | Bowling Green, Ohio |
| Box 828 | Columbus, Ohio |
| 15877 Indiana Avenue | Detroit, Michigan |
| H. S. Kemsell, Log Kabin Kamp, | Cadiz, Ohio |
| 319 Stearns Avenue | Deshler, Ohio |

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The CINCINNATI, Ohio, office will at Columbus, Ohio, ascertain to whom Box 828 is listed and endeavor to ascertain that individual's connection with instant organization, if any. It is suggested that this investigation be conducted in a discreet manner, as members will not talk if approached directly.

The CINCINNATI, Ohio, office will at Bellaire, Ohio, endeavor to ascertain the identity of Dr. Shepard and Mr. Claude Sutter, reputed heads of the Black Legion, and conduct such other investigation as they deem advisable.

The DETROIT, Michigan, office will at 15877 Indiana Ave., Detroit, ascertain the identity of the person who sent Bert Effinger mail from that address with a view to ascertaining whether or not the Black Legion has a completely equipped machine gun outfit in Detroit.

The DETROIT, Michigan, office will at 37 Campau St., Grand Rapids, ascertain who is sending Bert Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, mail from that address.

The CLEVELAND, Ohio, office will continue to investigate instant case along such lines as are deemed advisable for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of the members of the Department of Justice, who are reputed to be members of the Black Legion.

- P E N D I N G -

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 12, 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Berghman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Smith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

AGB:RD
61-7398

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BLACK LEGION;
NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB - Miscellaneous

The Bureau was requested in a memorandum from Mr. William Stanley dated April 15, 1935 to conduct an investigation concerning an organization known as the Black Legion, allegedly existing at Lima, Ohio. This matter came to the attention of the Department through Mr. K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

Investigation conducted by Special Agent C. E. Smith of the Cleveland Office disclosed that the Black Legion is a secret organization, originally formed prior to the Revolutionary War for patriotic purposes. The order subsequently disbursed, was re-assembled after the Civil War, and was recently again organized for the purpose of protecting the country against the various "sorts of isms" in the Government. It was ascertained that a Mr. Bert Effinger, commonly referred to as General, is the head of the organization at Lima, Ohio.

Former members of the Black Legion advised that membership in Allen County, Ohio had grown to about three thousand; that the organization as originally planned was of a patriotic nature; but at this time is distinctly revolutionary and is designed to obtain control of Governmental agencies. It is also stated by former members that about 80 per cent of the employees of the local Federal Emergency Relief Administration are members of the organization. Mr. Bert Effinger is reported to have stated that sixty or seventy employees of the Department of Justice are members, and that after a rumor had been spread that the Old Post Office Building was going to be destroyed by the legion, a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati, Ohio had conducted an investigation. Effinger is alleged to have reported that the "Agent" was about to join the legion. No further or definite information was obtained as to this matter.

61-7398-8

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 19 1935

Information was also obtained that the legion has a fully equipped company of machine gunners and a battalion of members equipped with Army rifles at Detroit, Michigan. A .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol was obtained from a former member of the legion who is alleged to have received it in a raid on certain Catholics located in another county. The serial number of this gun was mutilated and efforts are being made by the Bureau to ascertain the number so that the origin thereof may be known.

It was learned, upon the resignation of members of this organization, that they and their families were harassed and threatened by the organization.

The Black Legion is organized in degrees known as the Foot Legion, Night Riders, Black Knight, Armed Guard and the Bullet Club. It is to be noted that the activities of the Bullet Club came to the attention of the Bureau in November, 1934 by a report of Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey who alleged a plot was being formed to destroy the Federal buildings. The plot was allegedly directed against the Federal Emergency Relief Administration by dissatisfied Communists. Investigation by Mr. Cordrey revealed that the rumors were unfounded; that an unemployment league known as the Bullet Club was engaged in a dispute involving religious questions.

The investigation of this matter is proceeding to determine the truth of the statements concerning the membership of the Department of Justice employees and to determine the origin of the .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol.

Respectfully,

AGBerens.

A. G. Berens.

35

RJA:MAM
61-7398-9

RECORDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

July 6, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. STEPHENS

With reference to the memorandum of Mr. Stanley dated April 15, 1935, which requested an investigation regarding an organization known as the Black Legion, alleged to be in existence at Lima, Ohio, there is forwarded herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent J. D. Cunningham, dated at Detroit, Michigan, on June 24, 1935.

You will be promptly furnished with copies of further reports in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #307667

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
LFB/bjw

Expt

APPROVED FOR AGENCIES

10-3-77 declassification BJW, 196

3

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO FILE NO. 62-779

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 6/24/35 | 6/5,10,14/35 | J. D. CUNNINGHAM |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential |

DATE 10-2-77 D BSR/MV

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: John F. Scendahl, 15877 Indiana Avenue, employe American Blower Company, Detroit, Michigan, Employers state good worker with good record in that concern; born Sweden, naturalized American citizen. -P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, 5/24/35.

DETAILS: At Detroit, Michigan

The premises at 15877 Indiana Avenue were viewed by this writer, and it was ascertained that this is a modern two-family dwelling house.

At the Palmer Park Postal Station, William Stewart was interviewed and he stated that he would cooperate thoroughly in the matter and have the mailman delivering mail to the above premises make a discreet inquiry as to the occupants thereof. Mr. Stewart subsequently advised that Paul H. Davis resided in the lower apartment; that he has resided there for the past three years; that he is employed with the Michigan Title Company, is married, and is of the Roman Catholic Religion. Mr. Stewart further advised that John F. Scendahl has resided in the upper flat for a period of approximately 60 days; that this man is of Swedish nationality, is a naturalized American citizen, and is employed at the American Blower Company, Russell Street, Detroit. This man is of the Lutheran Religion. Due to the nature of this investigation and

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: D. S. Nicholson SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

61-7298

RECORDED AND INDEXED: JUN 26 1935

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UNITED STATES JUN 26 A.M. 1935 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ROUTED TO: FILE 6080

DECLASSIFIED BY LED/bja ON 9-20-77

the fact that Paul H. Davis is a Roman Catholic, he was not investigated further.

At the American Blower Company, 6000 Russell Street, Mr. Abel , executive, was interviewed, and he stated that Mr. Scendahl had been employed by that concern since approximately last January; that as far as he knew he was a good worker. He stated that Mr. Kane was in charge of the employment records, and advised that this man be interviewed. Mr. Kane upon being interviewed stated that Scendahl was hired through the Engineering Department about the first of the year; that according to the records he was born April 21, 1898, is married and has no children but is at the present time supporting his mother. The records further showed that he was five feet six inches in height, 158 pounds, was naturalized June 16, 1924; that he was born in Sweden; that he owns realty valued at $6,000 with a $3600 coverage; and that he is a member of the Lutheran Emmanuel Church. This man's prior employers were:

1916 to 1919 - Gorbensen Axle Company, Cleveland, Ohio
1919 to 1920 - Eaton Axle Company, Cleveland, Ohio
1922 to 1934 - Dohlstrom Metallic Door Company, Jamestown;

and that he has been employed in his present position since January 16, 1935. A notation appears on the record to notify Mrs. Carl Stolpe, 15335 Roselawn Avenue, Detroit. In conclusion Mr. Kane advised that this man's immediate superior is Mr. Polk.

Mr. Polk upon being interviewed stated that this man is apparently a good worker, honest, conscientious; that he never speaks wildly nor has he shown communistic or radical tendencies; that he is apparently open and above board. Mr. Polk further stated that this man's duties at the company are those of a draftsman, and that the company is very well satisfied with his work. Mr. Polk advised that he would make discreet inquiries in an attempt to learn further information about this man's home life.

In all of the above interviews it was carefully explained to the employers of Scendahl that he was not implicated criminally in any way and that in all probability this man was not the one about whom information was sought. As report of reference requests that this investigation be made discreetly, no further contacts were made.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The Detroit Office at GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, will 37 Campau Street, will ascertain who is sending mail to Bert Effinger, Lima, Ohio, from that address.

P E N D I N G

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: CLEVELAND, OHIO — FILE NO. 62-779

| PLACE | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 7/6/35 | 6/28/35 | S. L. FORTENBERRY |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~Confidential~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: 37 Campus Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, found to be the office address of the Richards Storage Warehous, Transfer Lines, F. C. Oldham, Manager, and Marion Keller, Secretary, unable to give any clue as to the identity of person writing to Bert Effinger of Lima, Ohio. They have many employees, and Manager Oldham will attempt to locate the one corresponding with Effinger by inquiring of them under the pretense that mail has been returned from Bert Effinger to 37 Campus St.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, 5/24/35.

DETAILS: AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Agent located the address of 37 Campus Street and found it to be the office entrance to the Richards Storage Warehouse and Transfer Lines. Miss Marion Keller advised that they employed approximately fifty persons and that they were all away at the time this Agent called, but that she could not give any idea as to the person writing the letter.

Mr. F. C. Oldham, the manager, later appeared, and he advised that he had had some trouble with labor leaders from Detroit attempting to organize his force and that he was continually on the look out for

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | RECORDED AND INDEXED: |
|---|---|---|
| D. L. Nicholson | 61-7398-10 | JUL 9 - 1935 |
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DECLASSIFIED BY 6604 ON 5-30-77

anything that may cause trouble with his laborers. He was unable to give any clue as to the possible identity of the person writing to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio, but advised that he would inquire among his employees, advising them that mail had been returned from Bert Effinger to his office address. Mr. Oldham was very co-operative with Agent and assured him that he would make every effort possible to learn the identity of the person writing the letter.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The DETROIT OFFICE at Grand Rapids, Michigan, will again contact F. C. Oldham at 37 Campus St. at an early date to ascertain from him if he has any information as to the identity of the person writing from that address to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio.

P E N D I N G

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO. FILE NO. [redacted]-033

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted]NCINNATI, OHIO. | 7-8-35 | 6-29-35 and 7-3-35 | W. L. BUCHANAN - C.E. |

TITLE:
[redacted]LACK LEGION;
[redacted]IGHT RIDERS;
[redacted]ULLET CLUB ;

CHARACTER OF CASE:
MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mr. [redacted] stated he was well-acquainted with Dr. Shepard; that he had known him for some fifteen or twenty years and considered him more or less a braggard. Mr. [redacted] First National Bank stated Dr. Shepard was a "big wind jammer"; that he did not consider him a leader among men. [redacted] advised Dr. Shepard was city health officer for the city of Bellaire, O.; that he had known him several years but considered him harmless; that he was of the opinion Dr. Shepard was a dope addict. Supt. of Mails Columbus, O. advised there is no post office box numbered 828 at Post Office Columbus.

-B.U.C.-

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF 7-24-35 DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY 6040 ON 5-10-77

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, dated 5-24-35, Cleveland, Ohio.

DETAILS:

DETAILS: AT BELLAIRE, OHIO.

Agent contacted Mr. [redacted] Bellaire, Ohio who advised that he had known Dr. Shepard for the past fifteen or twenty years; that several years ago Dr. Shepard was mixed up with the Klu Klux Klan and seemed to take an active part at that time; that Dr.

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: | | RECORDED AND INDEXED |
|---|---|---|---|
| E. J. Connelley, Special Agent in Charge | 61-7398-11 | | JUL 10 1935 |
| 3-Bureau | 2-Cleveland | 2-Cincinnati | BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JUL 9 - 1935 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | CHECKED OFF JUL 15 1935 |
| ROUTED TO: TWO SECT. | | | |

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Shepard retained a large box in the post office but rarely ever received any mail other than monthly bills; that on several occasions while talking with Dr. Shepard the Doctor would state how he hated Catholics and all foreigners and that they should be run out of this country; that on one occasion, several years ago, Dr. Shepard made the remark that he was going to blow up the First National Bank Building in Bellaire because the president of the bank had been lending money to foreigners. Mr [redacted] stated that he paid little attention to this statement as he knew Dr. Shepard was a boastful talker and he knew he didn't mean what he said.

Agent contacted Mr [redacted] of the First National Bank, Bellaire, Ohio, who stated that he had known Dr. Shepard practically all his life; that he came from a good family who had lived in and around Bellaire for the past thirty or forty years; that Dr. Shepard had always been a big talker and was at one time connected with the Klu Klux Klan, several years ago but that he had heard nothing of the supposed organization which Dr. Shepard is now supposed to be organizing; that it was the general talk about town that Dr. Shepard was a big wind jammer and no one paid much attention to what he had to say.

Agent contacted [redacted] Bellaire, Ohio who stated he had known Dr. Shepard for several years; that Dr. Shepard was now employed as city health officer for the city of Bellaire, Ohio; that he knew Dr. Shepard was connected with the Klan several years ago but that he had no recent information about Dr. Shepard organizing a secret organization there. [redacted] stated that he had heard Dr. Shepard on several occasions cuss the Catholics but that as he had known him for several years and knew that he was harmless he paid no attention to what he had to say. [redacted] stated that several years ago when the Klan had their meetingswhich were held out in the country, usually upon some high hill that some of the members would shoot off bombs or loud cracking fire crackers and also light up a large red cross; that he had heard nothing of this until about three weeks ago at which time a band of gypsies were camping a few miles from Bellaire; that about midnight one night someone shot off several loud bombs and scared these gypsies into leaving the country; that he had heard that Dr. Shepard was the instigator of this, but couldn't say of his own knowledge.

Dr. Shepard is described as being:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age: | 50 |
| Height: | 5'10" |
| Weight: | 170 lbs. |
| Mustache: | Smooth shaven |
| Hair: | Dark |
| Complexion: | Dark |
| Marital Status: | Married; one daughter 12 years old; |

Address: Bellaire Ohio.

[redacted] stated that there was no Mrs. Shepard in Bellaire; that Dr. Shepard had a sister whose name is Jenny Shepard, who works as a nurse in Dr. Shepard's office; that he had heard that Jenny Shepard was connected with the Women's Auxiliary of the Klu Klux Klan several years ago; that she was about 40 years old.

Agent made inquiry at the post office as well as at the city hall but was unable to locate Claude Sutter mentioned in reference report as being an assistant to Dr. Shepard. Claude Sutter is unknown in Bellaire, Ohio.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent J. E. Thornton,

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Agent contacted H. R. Burchfield, Clerk in the office of the Superintendent of the Mails, Columbus, Ohio, who informed agent that there is no post office box numbered 828. Mr. Burchfield took agent around to the Box section and showed that for purposes of convenience in sorting that the smaller boxes are arranged at the top and the larger boxes are arranged down low and that in the series of boxes that the numbers between 825 and 831 are omitted.

If any mail were sent to this box number at Columbus it could not be delivered and would eventually go to the "dead letter office."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: CLEVELAND, OHIO FILE NO. [redacted]

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 7/13/35 | 7/7/35 | S. L. FORTENBERRY |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Marion Keller advised that Manager Oldham had been unable to find out identity of Person sending mail from 37 Campus Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio. Will notify Detroit Office if information is received.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, May 24, 1935.
Report of Special Agent S. L. Fortenberry, Detroit, Michigan, July 6, 1935

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF [illegible] DATE [illegible]

DETAILS: AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

In the absence of Mr. F. C. Oldham, Marion Keller was contacted and advised that Mr. Oldham had been unable to ascertain the identity of the person writing to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio, and giving 37 Campus Street, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the return address. Miss Keller advised that the Detroit Office would be immediately notified in case they should find the identity of person using that address as a return address in corresponding with Bert Effinger. If information should at any time be sent to the Detroit Office, the Cleveland Office will immediately be furnished with same.

DETAILS:

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 ON 9-28-77 LEDWA

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | | RECORDED AND INDEXED: |
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| D. L. Nicholson, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | 61-7[illegible] | JUL 16 1935 |
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7-19-35 cl.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1935 7—3094

303

CEL:CJ
61-7398

August 22, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB - Miscellaneous
~~Confidential~~

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Declassification
DATE 10-3-77
BJN/14

RECORDED

61-7398-13

AUG 22 1935

FILE

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
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AUG 22 1935
P. M.
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Report No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO — FILE NO. 62-779

| PLACE | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 8/31/35 | 8/20/35 | N. E. MANSON |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>~~SECRET CLUB~~ | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) W/ [illegible] DATE [illegible]

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Michigan State Police arrested three members of Black Legion after meeting held 8/19/35 near Adrian, Michigan. Concealed weapons, black gowns with skull hoods found in their possession. County Prosecutor, Adrian, Michigan, states he will prosecute on charge of carrying concealed weapons. -P-

DETAILS: This investigation was made in response to the request of County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney, Adrian, Michigan, who advised that the Michigan State Police had arrested three men carrying concealed weapons and who claimed to be members of the Black Legion.

DETAILS: In a preliminary discussion with Sergeant G. W. Waterman of the East Lansing, Michigan, State Police, Sheriff Fred Seger, County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney and this Agent, the following facts were given by Mr. Kuney. For some months an organization known as the Black Legion, which has its main supporters in Detroit, Michigan, has held meetings in and around Adrian, Michigan, for the purpose of aiding this section of the country in its state wide and national organization. The meetings are held in the open air, out on prairies or clearings in the woods, away from the main highways. The meetings are held from the beginning of darkness until midnight. The police were told that a meeting was to be held on the night of August 19, 1935, and they trailed a car after the meeting and searched the occupants and car after being questioned. The State Police took the following men into custody: Elsworth S. Shinabery, 1576 Pasadena Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, age 40, occupation mechanic, Ford Motor Company, Badge #C4114, married, 5 feet 6½ inches,

DECLASSIFIED BY [illegible] 27-2-76

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

61-7378-14

RECORDED AND INDEXED: SEP 4 1935

CHECKED OFF: SEP 6 - 1935

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UNITED STATES SEP - 3 A.M. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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49

[redacted] pounds, Gray eyes; Andrew Martin Jr., 5064 Ridgewood Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, age 44, occupation clerk, not employed, single, [redacted] feet 6½ inches, 140 pounds; Roy L. Hepner, 2205 West Euclid Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, age 46, occupation metal finisher, Paige factory, 5 feet 10 inches, 160 pounds, married; all men claiming to be American born citizens.

The following is the important property taken from the automobile of the above men and held at the Sheriff's office, Adrian:

1 .38 calibre Colt Police Positive Special revolver, #160290
1 6121 German Luger Automatic Pistol, mark Gesichert, with attached dagger and scabbard.
3 Black gowns with hood for head bearing skull and cross bones.

There were also various printed instructions similar to army instructions as to how many men were composed in a platoon, company, et cetera. There were orders for mobilization and plans of attack. Mr. Kuney stated the men admitted the suitcases belonged to them but not the contents; that the guns and other equipment were packed and merely handed down to them by higher officials whom they did not know; that these articles were for the purpose of holding the meeting. They admitted carrying the concealed weapons but insisted that they did not own them. There was also an address book in which was listed one Harry Davis, 775 Ferdinand Street, Detroit, Michigan. This individual was arrested on August 14, 1935, at Detroit, Michigan, charge carrying concealed weapons, meeting, Black Legion, Detroit, Michigan. This was reported in the Detroit papers a few days before this investigation.

A prospective Black Legion member of Adrian, one [redacted] informed those present at the preliminary discussion that he was invited by one of his customers to attend a worthwhile meeting. [redacted] thought he would be taken to a cock fight or some such event but found an open air meeting of about 30 people, the leaders of which were wearing the gowns and masks. He explained that it was on the order of the Ku Klux Klan which organization thrived some years ago, except the purpose of this Black Legion seemed to be to protect citizens in uprisings which might develop or those in which the local law enforcement officials would fail to quell or handle in a proper manner. As an example, if a negro had raped a white girl the orders from those in command of the Black Legion might be such that they would deem it advisable to lynch the negro; therefore, it is necessary that every member have a gun in readiness for any call that may come from any part of the state of Michigan. [redacted] further stated that another prospective member, one Thomas Heinreich, has been threatened that he will be taken for a ride if he does not attend the meetings. Neither [redacted] nor Heinreich would become members and refused to sign the secret oath with their own blood which the commander of the Black Legion desired.

All members are given a bullet, which is a token of membership, and they are to conduct themselves so that it will never be necessary for the officials to ask for its return. [redacted] stated that he was told he would not be required to do any of the tough jobs as these jobs are handled by men imported from Toledo and also from Detroit.

After this preliminary discussion, one of the men arrested, Andrew Martin Jr., was called into the meeting for questioning. He insisted that he was an American citizen upholding the Constitution of the United States; that he had taken the secret oath in the Black Legion and could divulge no information regarding the individuals of the organization. He stated that even he did not know who the superior officers were as the orders came down the line similar to army orders. He further stated that their main objective was to combat communism, which was sweeping the contry; that their oath in becoming a member of the Black Legion was only a renewal of their faith in the United States Government and upholding the principles embodied in the Constitution of the United States. As an example he mentioned that we are all familiar with United States history and that a body of men two hundred years ago had to take things into their own hands at Boston, Massachusetts, which resulted in the Boston tea party. He stated that within the last two or three years communism has become rampant throughout the United States and it was again time for the red blood of American patriots to take things into their own hands.

Martin stated that he had not worked since 1928 and keeps house for his mother; that most of the members were of the working class of people and respectable citizens and were interested in preserving order and dignity in the United States. At this point Agent informed County Prosecutor Kuney and Sergeant Waterman privately that he would submit the serial numbers of the guns for tracing. Kuney stated that he would commence prosecution on charges of carrying concealed weapons.

This report is for the information of the office of origin which office is conducting a confidential investigation into the activities of this organization.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The New York Office at HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, will contact the Colt Firearm Company and trace the ownership of the .38 Colt Police Positive Revolver, Serial 160290.

The Detroit Office at ADRIAN, MICHIGAN, will contact County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney and obtain the disposition of this case and any other pertinent information that was obtained through prosecution.

P E N D I N G

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO FILE NO. 62-3 ah

| [redacted] AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLEVELAND, OHIO | 9-6-35 | 7/27;8/9,30/35 | C. E. SMITH |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant advises state committee recently investigated relief conditions in Lima and received complaints about Legion. Armed guards, members of the Legion, to be at polls on election day.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 5-24-35.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF declassification DATE 10-3-77 BJA/lgr

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed and advised that recently a committee from the state legislature had been in Lima, Ohio, investigating relief conditions in Allen County and that during the investigation George Armstrong, a resident of Lima, and self-confessed member of the Black Legion, had appeared before the committee and stated that the Legion controlled all relief jobs in Allen County through Burt Effinger, head of the local Legion. Armstrong further stated that discrimination was shown in the manner in which relief jobs were issued, especially against Catholics and colored workers.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED J. P. MacFarland SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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61 7398 10

SEP 9 1935

SEP 9 A.M.

SEP 11 1935

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ON 9-30-77 LED/lgr

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—3044

62-3

On August 10, 1935, Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland received a letter fro[redacted] which is as follows:

[redacted]
Lima, Ohio

"Mr. J. P. MacFarland
1448 Standard Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

August 9, 1935

"Dear Sir:

"I have been doing some checking since you were here and have found out that on or about September 1, 1934, there were some guns stolen from the Allen Co. Historical Society, located in Memorial Hall, corner Elm and Elizabeth Streets, of this city.

"Am unable to get the numbers of these guns, as there is no record of that kind kept, but did obtain the make of the guns taken. There was one German officer's Lugar; one German Sharpshooter's Lugar and holster; one German sharpshooter's Mouser pistol; one American officer's pistol (Colt); one American officer's .45 automatic pistol; one D. A. .45 revolver; one .45 Smith and Weston; 2 German clips for pistol; 2 clips and 65 rounds of .45 ammunition. This equipment was taken from the case display of Major John H. Blattenberg.

"It is my understanding that some members of the Black Legion planned to get this equipment. I believe that it will be found that one Chas. Hartzog stole this equipment as this man, who is known to be a member of the Black Legion, works at Memorial Hall and could have very easily gotten this equipment.

"Have been unable to locate the gun dealer I was telling you about when you were here, but hope to do so soon. I understand that there is a man by the name of George Barrington, who is a member of the Black Legion, and lives on the northeast corner of Eureka and Jackson Streets, has a 45. automatic Colt and holster which he bought from a man who works at the White Mountain Creamery, whose name I have been unable to learn, but I understand this man sells quite a few guns. I talked to Mr. [redacted] a few days ago and he tells me that a Mr. [redacted] of this city, can tell you considerable about the maps of fortification of this country which Burt Effinger has in his possession. I made a few inquiries as to whether or not the Black Legion would have armed guards at election booths this coming election, primaries, and understand they will have. Of course, I do not know for sure, but in view of the fact that they have had in the past, it is reasonable to believe they will have this time. I believe that if you were to come down here and stay for a day or two we could get this all straightened out. I have been informed that Burt Effinger at a meeting some time ago displayed a card with several names on it and told the people

"at the meeting the names on the card were those of all federal men and their religions and that these men all reported to him when they came in town. Of course, I realize no federal man reports to him, but a lot of these folks here believe everything he says.

"I have moved from [redacted] directly above [redacted]

"Must close and hope to see you soon or hear from you.

/s/ [redacted]

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will discreetly interview Major John H. Blattenberg and endeavor to ascertain the numbers of the guns he had on display at the Allen County Historical Society and check same against the number of the .45 cal. Colt Automatic previously obtained and now in possession of the Bureau.

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will interview Mr. [redacted] and obtain from him all information he has in his possession relative to maps of fortifications in the possession of Burt Effinger. In this connection it is suggested that Mr. [redacted] be contacted through [redacted] Will also again interview [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining if possible the cards on which are the names of various federal agents. Will also ascertain the identity of the individual who is employed by the White Mountain Creamery, reported to be selling guns.

- P E N D I N G -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO. NY FILE NO. 62-5593

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW YORK CITY | 9/11/35 | 9/9/35 | EUGENE H. HEMRY |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>SECRET CLUB | ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company records show that .38 Colt Police Positive revolver #160290 sold to Standard Bros. Hardware Corp., Detroit, Mich., on March 17, 1926.

- RUC -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES NOTIFIED BY ROUTING (S) OF declassification DATE 10-3-77 BJM

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent N.E. Manson, Detroit, Michigan, dated August 31, 1935.

DETAILS

AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Mr. Robert Countney of the record department, Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company, 17 Van Dycke Avenue, advised that .38 calibre Colt Police Positive revolver, serial No. 160290 (4 inch barrel) was sold by the Colt Company to the Standard Bros. Hardware Corporation,

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE 61-7398

RECORDED AND INDEXED: SEP 12 1935

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SEP 12 A.M.

CHECKED OFF: SEP 13 1935

JACKETED:

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2 Cleveland
2 Detroit
2 New York

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

DECLASSIFIED BY 10040 ON 9-30-77

USPA—FLK

NY File 62-5593

Detroit, Michigan, on March 17, 1926.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

DETROIT OFFICE: At Detroit, Michigan, will make proper inquiry of Standard Bros. Hardware Corp. as to their sale of .38 Colt Police Positive revolver, serial #160290.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

FILE NO. 62-3 jjo

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLEVELAND, OHIO | 10/1/35 | 9/22/35 | E. H. WILLIAMS |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION<br>NIGHT RIDERS<br>BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] and [redacted] both of Lima, Ohio, state that about a year and a half ago they saw a map supposedly of the secret fortifications of New York City and of the United States in the possession of Burt Effinger, leader of the Black Legion, and that Effinger said he was getting the maps through the U. S. Department of Justice and that they were very hard to get. No information obtained concerning identity of Special Agents of the U. S. Department of Justice who are supposed to belong. No information as to identity of person in White Mountain Creamery who is selling guns to members of Black Legion. Colonel Lupps, prominent at City Hall, Detroit, Michigan, supposed to be supplying guns also.

-- P --

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED ROUTING SLIP(S) BY [illegible] DATE 10-4-35

REFERENCE Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 9/6/35.

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Agent interviewed [redacted] as to what additional information he had concerning the facts of the instant case other than that contained in his letter to the Cleveland Office under date of August 9, 1935 and set out at length in the report of reference. Mr. [redacted] advised that he did not have any additional information stating that he had not been able as yet to ascertain the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED J. P. MacFarland SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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61-7398-7

OCT 4 - 1935

OCT 9 1935

OCT 3 - A.M.

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3 - Cleveland
1 - U.S. Attorney, Michigan

identity of the man who is employed at the White Mountain Creamery who is reported to be selling guns. He advised that he was unable to find out where the cards were that contained a list of Federal Agents that were supposed to be members of the Black Legion. He also informed Agent that Major John H. Blattenberg was deceased and it was from his collection which he had given to the Allen County Historical Society, that various guns were recently stolen. Mr. [redacted] advised that he believed these guns were stolen by a man by the name of Charles Hartzog who is a member of the Black Legion, a known radical, and he probably stole them for the purpose of arming some of the members of the Legion.

Mr. [redacted] located [redacted] who is employed as a [redacted] who advised Agent that he had been a member up until about fourteen months ago and shortly prior to that time he had seen a map of the secret fortifications of New York City in the possession of Burt Effinger, leader of the Legion in Lima; that Effinger kept it either in a safe in his basement or under the rafters of his home. He stated at the time that he procured these maps from the U. S. Department of Justice and they were very hard to get, it taking as much as eight months to purloin one. He stated that at the time he went into the Legion, Effinger had stated there were about sixty some Agents of the U. S. Department of Justice who were members and they reported regularly to him when they came to town. Mr [redacted] was unable to give the name of any of the Agents who were supposed to be members. He also advised that at present information was that there were about 3200 members of the Legion in Allen County and they control the relief organization in Allen County.

Through [redacted] Agent contacted Mr [redacted] who is a carpenter in Lima, Ohio, and who advised that he had joined the Black Legion about four years ago at the time it first started in Lima; that it was not the outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan though most of the members of the latter organization had become members of the Legion. Mr. [redacted] advised that about eighteen months ago he had been to a meeting of the Legion in the old Ku Klux Klan Hall in Lima; that at that time Burt Effinger had possession of a map which he said was the secret fortifications of New York City; that Effinger stated there were some disappearing guns located underneath the Statue of Liberty. Mr. [redacted] advised that it required several men to hold it up for inspection; that when Effinger asked him, [redacted] to take hold of it he refused because he did not want to get "framed". At this time Effinger stated that he got the maps through the Department of Justice and it was very hard to get them; that often it took as much as six or eight months to obtain one. Mr. [redacted] stated that at the time he became a member, Effinger was saying there were nine Agents of the U. S. Department of Justice who were members of the organization, but had never heard any of the names.

As Agent was talking to Mr. [redacted] the name of "Upps" was mentioned, at which Mr. [redacted] advised that the name was not "Upps", but "Lupps"; that he was well known around the City Hall in Detroit, Michigan. He stated he had seen Colonel Lupps on several occasions and he seemed to be the one who was supplying most of the Black Legion with guns through his political connections at the City Hall in Detroit.

Mr. [redacted] was unable to throw any additional light on the present set-up of the Legion, but stated there was a city election coming shortly and the contest was between the members of the Black Legion and those who were Catholics or were not members in the Legion.

Following this interview, Agent was contacted by [redacted] who advised that one of the candidates for the office of mayor in the city election, to be held in the near future in Lima, was Catholic and a bitter opponent of the Black Legion, and had stated to him that if a Government man with the proper credentials was to come to him, he had enough information to blast the Legion into Kingdom Come. He stated this candidate's name was William Murphy and he was employed in the local locomotive works. On first thought Agent intended to contact Mr. Murphy but later deemed it advisable that in view of the impending election in which there appears to be considerable strife developing, it would be wiser not to contact Mr. Murphy at the present time since it might involve the Bureau in a local political detriment.

Mr. [redacted] advised that other persons known to him as being members were:

Charles Long, City Solicitor, Lima, Ohio.
State Representative Meyers, Lima, Ohio.
Lieutenant Steen of the Erie Railroad Police, Lima, Ohio.

Mr. [redacted] also advised that he was the person who disarmed the Chief of Police of Lima, Ward Taylor, at the time he became a member of the Black Legion. He stated that [redacted] had told him a man by the name of Joe Louis, living near Lima, who was a former member, would be able to give some information.

Agent consulted Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland, as to further steps to be taken in this investigation, since it is apparent that the only informants developed are those who were members some months back. It was discussed whether it would not be better to interview Burt Effinger, leader of the Legion, and ascertain the membership of the Black Legion and the character of the fortification map he is alleged to have in his possession. Agent was advised that in view of the fact the Bureau had requested a confidential inquiry, such a proceedure, as suggested by Agent, should be referred to the Bureau for its decision. Agent was informed that such a reference would be made shortly by letter to the Bureau.



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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE DETROIT OFFICE at DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will ascertain at the City Hall, if a man by the name of Lupps is known there, and determine, if possible, what connections he has which would enable him to purchase firearms for distribution to the members of the Black Legion.

THE CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will interview Joe Louis who may be located through either [redacted] or [redacted] as to any information concerning the Black Legion.

Will interview William Murphy on or about November 1, 1935, after the city election at Lima, Ohio, as to what, if any, information he may have concerning the Black Legion.

-- P E N D I N G --

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

FILE NO. 62-779

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 10/16/35 | 9/13-10/2,10, 14/35 | N. E. MANSON LBC |

TITLE
BLACK LEGION
NIGHT RIDERS
BULLET CLUB

CHARACTER OF CASE
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On 8/28/35, Justice of the Peace, Adrian, Michigan, dismissed case in which Michigan State Police arrested three members of Black Legion on charges of carrying concealed weapons; held that Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching the defendant's automobile. Inquiries at Detroit City Hall failed to reveal person by the name of Colonel Lupps.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent, N. E. Manson, Detroit, Michigan, dated 8/31/35.
Report of Special Agent Gene H. Henry, New York City, dated 9/11/35.
Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/35.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED — ROUTING SLIP(S) CT DATE

DETAILS: AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

At the Standard Hardware and Auto Supply Company, 1361 Gratiot, Agent was informed by the manager that this concern had no connection with the Standard Brothers Hardware Corporation; that this latter concern had gone out of business several years ago.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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At the Detroit City Hall, Agent interviewed the following persons, who have a wide acquaintance with persons making contacts at the City Hall:

Policeman Andrew Miller and Policeman Jack Miner.

At the Record Bureau, James Stockwell, formerly in the Mayor's office.

Ray Nester in the Department of Public Works Office.

None of these persons ever heard of Colonel Lupps.

AT ADRIAN, MICHIGAN.

Mr. Lawrence J. Hammond, Assistant County Prosecutor, was interviewed relative to disposition of trial of Andrew O. Martin, Jr., Roy L. O. Hepner, and Elsworth S. Shinabery, who are held on charges of carrying concealed weapons. Mr. Hammond stated that this case was dismissed by Justice of the Peace, Franklin Russel, on August 28, 1935; that Judge Russel held that the search was illegal; that the Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching their automobile, as there was not probable cause, since the original information had been obtained by the Michigan State Police some five weeks previous, in which a similar meeting was held by the Black Legion; that the meeting in which these three defendants were arrested and searched was at a later time.

The defendants were represented by an attorney, Harry Marx, Union Guardian Building, Detroit, and were also interceded by a person whose name Mr. Hammond could not recall. This latter individual was from Lima, Ohio, and he described him as being very stout and that he had informed Mr. Hammond that he was one of the highest officers of the Black Legion from the Lima district. He pleaded the case for the defendants, stating that the guns found in their possession had not been intended to violate the law, and did not, but were used exclusively as part of their ritual.

Mr. Hammond further stated that the whole affair has since quieted down and that there have been no further complaints made, or other talk about the town, as was prevalent during the summer.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO — FILE NO. 62-3 mg

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLEVELAND, OHIO | 12/12/35 | 12/9/35 | E. H. WILLIAMS |

TITLE OF CASE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB

CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Mr. William Murphy, Lima, Ohio, has no information of value. He desired to contact an Agent of the U. S. Dept. of Justice at election time for political purposes. He advises that Ward Taylor, Chief of Police, Lima, O., told him that he was a member of the Black Legion. Information indicates that Joe Louis, Lima, O., is at present a member in good standing with the Legion.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/35.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED — SUPERVISOR — DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 ON 7-30-77

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Agent contacted [redacted] who advised that he did not have any other information concerning the activities of the Black Legion than that which he has already furnished. He accompanied Agent to interview Mr. William Murphy, 712 S. Main St. who was a candidate for Mayor of Lima in the last election.

Mr. Murphy stated to Agent that if he had come around about election time that the Department of Justice could have done him some good by exposing the Black Legion. He stated that he knew nothing concerning the Black Legion except what he had picked up by hearsay. It developed that about all he had heard was what had been told him by

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. E. Mossarla — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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1 - [illegible] 1-22-36

[redacted] an [redacted] Mr. Murphy did state that last June he had met Ward Taylor, Chief of Police of Lima, on the street and had asked Taylor point blank during a conversation if he was a Black Legionaire. According to Mr. Murphy, Taylor admitted that he was a member.

In an effort to locate Joe Louis for an interview concerning what he knew about the Black Legion [redacted] suggested that contact be had with George Scheid, 412 E. Market Street. While talking with Scheid, who was also a former Legionaire and who has been interviewed, he advised that Louis is a member in good standing in the Legion. Mrs. Scheid also advised that Mrs. Louis is a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Black Legion. Under these circumstances it was not deemed advisable to interview Louis. Mr. [redacted] was unable to furnish any additional information as to the recent activities of the Legion.

- P E N D I N G -

EFE:EHG

December 16, 1935.

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

1-22-36
Sac-Cleveland 6-46

RECORDED 61-7398-20

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
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DATE 10-4-77

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DECLASSIFIED BY 10080
ON 9-30-77
LBD/BJH

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
DEC 16 1935
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EFE:AF

61-7398 -20

RECORDED

January 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

Investigation in the above entitled case was requested by Bureau letter to your office dated April 22, 1935, at the instance of the Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. William Stanley, copies of his memorandum requesting investigation being transmitted therewith.

Although investigative action has been carried on for a period of nine months, the Bureau file reflects that same has failed to develop any information of the nature desired. It is, therefore, requested that your office thoroughly review its file in the above case with a view to setting out all appropriate leads requiring investigative action so that the case may be brought to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY WRITING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY 4080
ON 9-30-77

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JAN 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RFE:VTL
61-7398-20

March 6, 1936.

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 22, 1936, in which your office was requested to institute a review of its files for the purpose of setting out such appropriate leads as might bring instant case to a conclusion at the earliest possible date.

The Bureau file reflects that this matter has not received proper attention by your office. You are, therefore, requested to give same immediate attention and submit a report not later than March 25, 1936.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAR - 6 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

March 14, 1936

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61-7398 - 21

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: BLACK LEGION;
NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB.
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 7, 1936, in which you request the advice of the Bureau as to the desirability of interviewing Burt Effinger and his son Guy, who are officers of the above named organization, relative to its purposes and membership, so that it may be definitely determined whether any employees of the Department of Justice are connected therewith.

After a careful consideration of the facts developed by the investigation to date, the Bureau desires that Effinger and his son be interviewed at this time in order that instant investigation may be brought to a logical conclusion at an early date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080 ON 12/07/79

MAR 16 1936
FBI
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

March 7, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: BLACK LEGION;
NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB.
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF

In connection with the investigation conducted by the Cleveland office in this matter, it appears that past investigation has developed considerable facts concerning the organization, including the names of the various persons appearing to be its directing heads. It also appears that the organization is primarily political in nature and that the allegations that employees of the Department of Justice belong to the organization is merely a "bluff" used on the part of the head of the Legion in Lima, one Burt Effinger, in order to impress members of the organization with its strength and position.

Accordingly, the Cleveland office is of the opinion that it might be appropriate at this time to interview Burt Effinger and his son, Guy, who is also an officer of the organization, relative to the organization and its purposes, having in mind making a demand that the membership list of the organization be produced so that it might be examined for the names of any Department of Justice employees, and also so that the officers could be requested to name the members who are employees of the Department. Other investigation does not appear to be particularly pertinent.

It is, therefore, requested that the Bureau advise as to whether it approves the procedure suggested herein, or whether it desires that further investigation be conducted along other lines, and that the officers of the organization not be approached.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7321-21

MAR 17 1936

Very truly yours,

J. P. MacFARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

EMH/EJB

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ON 9-30-77
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FILE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Cleveland, Ohio FILE NO. 62-3

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland, Ohio | 3/7/36 | 2/21/36 | B. M. HIRSH | EJB |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB. | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant [redacted] unable to furnish any further information of value. Is more than ever convinced now that organization is purely political.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 12/12/35; letter from the Bureau dated 1/22/36.

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Interview was had wit[redacted] Street, who has furnished considerable information of value in this case. [redacted] furnished information all of which, however, appears to be already incorporated in the file. In this connection he reiterated that the Legion has as members the Chief of Police of Lima, as well as the Chief of Detectives, Ross Landfair, as well as other detectives and patrolmen; that Mayor Metheany of Lima is also a member, although it appears that he received a private initiation. [redacted] stated further that his last information was that there are approximately 3,400 members of the Legion in Allen County, including the members in the city of Lima. In this connection it might be stated that the population of Allen County, together with the population of the city of Lima amounts to approximately 60,000 persons.

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF MAIL DATE 3-9-36

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. E. MacDarland SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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MAR 12 1936

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[redacted] was unable to advise as to whether there is in existence any list containing the nemes of all of the Black Legion members.

[redacted] advised further that he has not heard in the past several months of any acts of violence on the part of the Legion toward individuals in that vicinity. He further stated that he feels quite certain that the Legion is primarily a political organization and that by using the method that it does in its initiation and organization it is better able to control absolutely the votes of its members.

In accordance with suggestion contained in reference letter from the Bureau, the Cleveland office will take appropriate steps to conclude the investigation in this case.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at Lima, Ohio, will continue investigation in this case.

- PENDING -

EFE:MC

61-7398-23

RECORDED

April 22, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN,
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club; Miscellaneous -
Confidential.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent N. E. Manson, dated at Cleveland, Ohio, April 14, 1936, which completes the investigation which has been conducted by this Bureau pursuant to the memorandum from Mr. William Stanley, the then Assistant to the Attorney General, dated April 15, 1935.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the purpose for which this investigation was conducted was to ascertain whether any employees of the Department of Justice were members of these organizations. Inasmuch as all the investigative action to date has failed to disclose any facts indicating that this situation exists, no further investigation will be conducted by this Bureau in the absence of a specific request from you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1124364

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
APR 23 1936

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO FILE NO. 62-3 ah

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLEVELAND, OHIO | 4-14-36 | 4-8-36 | N. E. MANSON |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Review of the file made. In interview with Burt Effinger, Lima, Ohio, 4-8-36 he denies leadership activities in Black Legion, claiming he never was a member of the secret order. Admits he is member of Ku Klux Klan, but does not know of any Department of Justice agents who belong to either organization; also denies having possession of map showing secret fortifications of the United States.

- C -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

REFERENCE: Bureau letters dated January 22nd and March 14th, 1936.

DETAILS: This file has been reviewed. The paramount investigation in this case has been an attempt to ascertain authentic information alleged to have been made by "Major General" Burt Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, who is said to be the local leader of the secret order, known as the Black Legion. On various occasions in 1934 and the early part of 1935 Effinger is alleged to have said to several Lima residents that sixty two members of the Department of

APPROVED AND FORWARDED J. P. McBarla SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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61-7398-23

APR 17 1936

APR 24 1936

APR 16 A.M.

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Grand General concept 4/22/36 EFE

Justice are members of his secret organization. The complainants also reported that a Dr. Shepard, of Bellaire, Ohio, is the head of the Black Legion in the U. S., that the son of Burt Effinger, Guy Effinger, is Lieutenant Colonel and that the entire organization is of a revolutionary character. The original complaint was made in February 1935 to Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey in Lima, Ohio.

Mr. Cordrey stated later that he subsequently had occasion to call upon Burt Effinger at his home, the result of which was a letter mailed by Burt Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, which contained the names of six persons who were thought to be closely connected with Communistic activities. Two of these individuals could not be identified or located and the other four have been interviewed many times, and it has been difficult to understand why these are the same persons who made or through whom the original complaint was made to Mr. Cordrey. These persons tell practically the same story in that they were former members of the Black Legion and were told that the order was to be a patriotic one and particularly to be against Communism and all other isms; that later it grew to be distinctly revolutionary in that the heads of the organization were attempting to use it to gain control of various government agencies, taking the law into their own hands by resorting to firearms and bombings; that Burt Effinger said sixty or seventy members of the Department of Justice were members of the Black Legion and that he had in the basement of his home a large map showing the secret fortifications of the United States, which had been obtained from the U. S. Department of Justice.

Investigation revealed that Dr. Shepard was considered by the local residents of Bellaire, Ohio, as "a big wind jammer" and his apparent rash statements as being harmless. Other than scaring away a gypsy camp with loud bombs nothing was learned about the doctor being affiliated with the Black Legion, although it was learned that he had been active with the Ku Klux Klan some years ago.

The complaints as made by the Lima, Ohio, residents were also made in the summer of 1935 by several citizens of Adrian, Michigan, except that the headquarters of the Legion were at Detroit, Michigan. The Michigan State Police arrested three members of the Detroit Black Legion on August 19, 1935, after one of their out-door ceremonial meetings held near Ogden, Michigan. The police found concealed weapons, black gowns or shrouds, together with skull caps in their possession. These members were the only active members found during this entire investigation, and it was learned from them by this agent that no information regarding the individuals of their secret order could be divulged by them, because of their having taken a secret oath to this effect. Information was obtained from them, however, that the Black

62-5

Legion was of a strictly military type, orders coming down the line from their unknown superior officers; that the main objective of the order was to combat Russian Communism, which was sweeping the U. S., that their oath in becoming a member of the Black Legion was simply a renewal of their faith in the United States Government and to uphold the principles embodied in the Constitution of the U. S. Later investigation in this area disclosed that no further meetings were held and no further complaints were made. No prosecution was brought against these three members, the matter being dropped by the local authorities.

This reporting agent interviewed Burt Effinger at his home, 1114 Harrison Avenue, Lima, Ohio, on April 8, 1936. He informed agent he has resided in Lima, Ohio, for many years; that he was born in West Virginia and is an electrician by trade; that in the past he has been active in the American Federation of Labor circles, but that on account of his beliefs, in which he termed himself a constructive radical, in contrast to a destructive radical, he was pushed out and finally even lost his job, but was told that the latter was due to his ultra-conservative policies.

Burt Effinger denied to agent that he was a member of the Black Legion but did say he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that this country is swiftly and more or less secretly being overcome by Communism; that Communism is a destructive theory of government, builds up nothing and that through its influence the homes of the citizens of this country are being undermined and broken down until there is no respect for the law; that the politicians and the law enforcement agencies through graft, parole and political power have failed to cope with the wide spreading crime wave that is prevalent over the country. Therefore, Effinger said quoting the last clause in the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States - "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed", it is sometimes right and necessary, in his opinion, for the patriotic citizens of this country to take the law into their own hands and to cope with situations that the local law enforcers have failed to handle. Effinger talked at great length rambling from one subject to another, but he continually stressed the fact that he loved the U. S. and the republic for which it stands; that the Constitution must be upheld at all costs, and that there are enough red-blooded Americans trying to wake up the dormant citizens and politicians to realize that Russian Communism was making great inroads in the United States.

Since Effinger denied that he was a member of the Black Legion and also informed agent that he never attended any meetings of the Black Legion but had only heard of the Order, he was asked to whom agent might go to obtain information regarding the Order. He stated that he could refer agent to no one. He was questioned quite closely regarding the hearing of the three members of the Black Legion who were arrested near Adrian, Michigan, at which time an official from the Black Legion came from Lima to intercede for them, but his name was not preserved in the records by the local authorities.

Effinger stated that he was not the man and that all he knew about the case was what he obtained from the newspapers. He again stated that he never participated in their meetings nor is he familiar with their organization.

Agent then informed Effinger that his name had been complained of in that he was generally known to have been the leader in the Black Legion and was asked to account for this. He replied that he is known as a radical, but that he wished to convey to agent that this term be understood in the right light as a constructive radical and that any person who attempts to do anything will be criticized; that, therefore, his name was probably turned in by the local communists whom he termed as dirty rats. He was then asked as to the rumors of bombing the post office, movies and roadhouses, to which he replied that these are the things that the communists want to do; that when and if these things should occur and the law fails to curb such activities, it is then time for the patriotic citizens to take the necessary steps that will prevent such destruction. Effinger admitted that he had heard rumors of such contemplated activities, whereupon he was again questioned as to the name of the person whom agent might interview in order to obtain definite information. He stated that he believed that it was one of the communists by the name of Armstrong, but he could furnish no address for him. (Armstrong was one of the names turned in by Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, but was never identified). Effinger then made the bold statement that if any such bombings or destruction did take place the situation would be well taken care of by the time that the Department of Justice would get to know about it. Agent asked if this would be taken care of in behalf of the Ku Klux Klan or the Black Legion or just what organization, to which he replied that "only by the Red-blooded American Patriotic citizens of this community".

Effinger was then interrogated as to how many Department of Justice agents belonged to any such organizations as the Black Legion, Ku Klux Klan or any other secret order that he knew of. His answer was that he did not know any Department of Justice agents and, therefore, he does not think any agents belong; that about two years ago Agent Dickstein came to his house and questioned him along the same lines that the writer was doing. (This would be prior to the inauguration of the Cleveland field office and prior to the complaint made in this case).

Agent then informed Effinger of a certain map that he was supposed to have in his possession purporting to show the secret fortifications of this country and that he obtained it from the Department of Justice. He replied that he is not and never was in possession of such a map and, furthermore, stated that if he heard of anyone having such a map he would report it at once to the U. S. officials as the very possession of such a map is a penitentiary offense.

At this point Mrs. Effinger came into the room, and she stated that they were members of the Ku Klux Klan but not of the Black Legion. Inquiry was made concerning her son, Guy. She replied that Guy has not been at home for years, except for a short while last year; that he has a good record with the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone Company, where he worked for six years; that last year he was home for a while when he was out of work; that he is now working as an engineer for the W P A out of Zanesville, Ohio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Effinger denied that their son ever belonged to the Black Legion or the Klan and, furthermore, when Guy was home he criticized his father for belonging to the Klan. Mrs. Effinger said Guy was a very conservative boy, of good habits, never having inhabited the pool rooms; was studious and a Mason. Mrs. Effinger appeared to be of refined and quiet manners while Mr. Effinger was of the loud and braggert type of individual. They live in a bungalow in a good section of town, together with their married daughter and grandchildren. On the whole, the home is of a refined atmosphere.

The following description of Burt Effinger was obtained by observation:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name | - | V. H. Effinger |
| Address | - | 1114 Harrison Ave., Lima, O. |
| Age | - | about 60 |
| Height | - | 6' |
| Weight | - | 200 lbs. |
| Build | - | heavy |
| Complexion | - | ruddy |
| Hair | - | light grey-bald |
| Eyes | - | blue |

Reporting agent made attempts to interview some of the former persons interviewed in this investigation in order to ascertain if any Black Legion meetings were held recently, but was unsuccessful. Agent learned that informant [redacted] Main Street, had moved somewhere out in the country and left no forwarding address at this place. However, on February 21, 1936, when he was interviewed he stated that he had no further information. Other persons interviewed in the latter part of 1935 had no additional information to offer.

Inasmuch as this investigation reveals that the activities of the Black Legion were started some four years ago and that the complaints in this case relate to 1934 and the early part of 1935; that in the absence of additional complaints and no reports being received as to any actual bombings or destruction of property, it is felt that the Black Legion movement has resorted to a political issue and has now quieted down. It is also felt that an interview with Guy Effinger would not dis-

close who the alleged Department of Justice employes might be who are supposed to belong to the Black Legion. However, a copy of this report is being sent to the Cincinnati field office in the event that the Bureau deems it advisable to interview Guy Effinger in Zanesville, Ohio.

This case, therefore, is being closed with the sanction of Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland and further investigation discontinued unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary.

- C L O S E D -

61-7322-24

EAT:TMF

May 29, 1936

Mr. H. H. Reinecke,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
911 Federal Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Smith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Tamm
Tracy
Miss Gandy

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
May 25, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Detroit, Michigan

RE: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS, BULLET CLUB
MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential

Dear Sir

Reference is made to the telephone conversation between this writer and Mr. E. A. Tamm on May 25, 1936, in reference to recent publicity in the Detroit newspapers regarding the Black Legion Society.

Since the above conversation, [redacted] Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, called at this office, and in an interview stated that he was initiated into this organization approximately in October of 1934. He explained the ritual at the time he was initiated and part of the ceremony, including the oath of office, as set forth in report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated May 24, 1935, which was read to him (its source was not explained) and he immediately identified the oath of office and the various rituals as being the same as that which he took.

It, therefore, appears that the investigation which was conducted previously, in which Cleveland was the office of origin, concerns the same organization which is presently receiving the publicity in Detroit.

At the time this writer spoke to Mr. Tamm he was not familiar with the Detroit file on this matter, and as this was before the interview with Mr. [redacted] as above stated, this information was not given to Mr. Tamm by phone.

The Detroit office is not conducting any investigation into this matter in Detroit, Michigan, as apparently there is no Federal violation involved.

It might be mentioned in closing that before Mr. [redacted] would give the above information, he was promised that his name would not be used in connection therewith and it is, therefore, suggested that his name be not mentioned in connection with this matter.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7378-24

Very truly yours

H. H. Reinecke

H. H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

JDC/rrm
[redacted]
CC - Cleveland

JUN 2 1936

NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M.D.
10508 WEST CHICAGO AVENUE
DETROIT

May 25/36.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.
Washington D.C.

RECORDED
INDEXED
61-7398-25

Dear Mr Hoover: Startling intolerable revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough federal investigation.

I remember your statement as to the politics back of criminal elements. Here we have a situation where state prison employees, municipal employees are definitely implicated and local investigation will be curtailed before the real criminals behind the scenes are exposed.

The political strength of such a terroristic society should not prevent immediate thorough investigation of this barbarous condition.

Decent Michigan people would welcome action and it is my hope that your able department will be given this difficult task.

Very Truly Yours
N J Bicknell

ack
cc

EFE:EHG
RECORDED 61-7398-25

June 1, 1936.

Dr. N. J. Bicknell,
10508 West Chicago Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936, requesting that this Bureau take appropriate action relative to the terroristic activities of the Black Legion, by reason of the fact that local authorities are allegedly so implicated that their investigation will be curtailed prior to exposing the real criminals.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violation of specific Federal laws and to collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the members of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret this Bureau is without authority to take action in the premises.

Your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 2 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Detroit.

81

JEE:AS

May 13, 1936

61-7398-26

Time: 4:15 P.M.

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

RE: Charles A. Poole.

I telephoned Chief of Detectives H. W. Piel at Detroit and stated that in answer to his wire our records revealed through fingerprint identification that the man in question is Charles A. Poole; that the record indicates he was arrested in December 17, 1926 at Dodge City, Kansas, charged with vagrancy at which time he gave his residence as 21 North Fourteenth Street, East St. Louis and his birthplace as Warrensburg, Kentucky. I also furnished Chief Piel with the description as indicated on our records.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 14 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 15 1936 P. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

82

JEH:OKP:RLM May 13, 1936.

Time-5:10 P.M.

-7398-26

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Charles W. Poole.

In regard to the request for the search on the fingerprints of a man found shot to death in Detroit, I told Mr. Suydam that an identification had been made; that the man was Charles W. Poole who had been arrested in Dodge City, Kansas, in December, 1926, his home being given at that time as East St. Louis. I stated I had advised the Chief of Detectives at Detroit in response to his wire and had also called Mr. Blair Moody of the Detroit News who was not in at the time. In response to my suggestion Mr. Suydam stated he would advise Mr. Moody of the results.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 14 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 1936 P. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

WM4 25 DL

DETROIT MICH MAY 13 112P

J EDGAR HOOVER

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT OF JUSTICE

BLAIR MOODY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DETROIT NEWS HAS WIREPHOTO OF FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTO MAN MURDERED HERE KINDLY WIRE ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY

HENRY W PIEL CHIEF OF DETECTIVESN

134PM.

RA BI

61-7398-26

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAY 27 1933

FILE

2 encl.

DEP

THE COMPANY ... ECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS ... ING ITS SERVICE

207

1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT — NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

...e filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

...eceived at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

PRESS GALLERY U S S

WAC57 DPR PAID=WUX DETROIT MICH 13 1144A

FELIX COTTEN=

SENATE PRESS GALLERY=

PLEASE ASK GOVERNMENT FINGERPRINTERS CHECK PRINTS OF MAN FOUND SLAIN HERE TODAY. TAKE SHEET PAPER AND DRAW RECTANGLE WITH TWENTY EIGHT SQUARES SEVEN ACROSS AND FOUR DOWN FIRST LINE FIRST SQUARE M NEXT FOUR BLANK ~~FIFTH~~ SQUARE ONE ~~SIXTH~~ seventh SQUARE 6 SECOND LINE L I R ZERO ZERO ZERO LAST BLANK THIRD LINE M ONE U ZERO ZERO ONE LAST BLANK FOURTH LINE ALL BLANK EXCEPT SIXTH ZERO= LAPPING.

Apparently means sixth

file
Leg DEP
5/15/36

NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS MADE FOR REQUESTING A REPLY BY WESTERN UNION

5

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Mr. Sugrue

This is my interpretation of the puzzle.

Cotton

file
ha/DEP
1/15/36

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

TDQ:RCL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 14, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Suydam telephoned yesterday afternoon and stated that the body had been found of a gangster who had been shot to death in the streets of Detroit yesterday morning and that a representative of the Detroit News had received a wire photograph of the fingerprints and had turned them over to Mr. Suydam requesting that the records of the Identification Division be checked in an effort to establish his identity.

Mr. Suydam stated that he had advised the representative of the Detroit News that the facilities of the Bureau could be made available only to regularly appointed law enforcement officials and that if the Chief of Police at Detroit telephoned the Director, undoubtedly such information as was available would be furnished. I immediately sent the prints to Mr. Edwards in your absence with the request that a search of the files be made and then communicated with you advising you of Mr. Suydam's request. An identification was made in this case and all identifying data was turned over to Mr. Tracy who informed me that the Director communicated with the police department at Detroit and advised them of the identification.

Mr. Reinecke also telephoned yesterday afternoon concerning this same case and stated that the chief of detectives had communicated with him advising that he had sent a telegram to the Director requesting information as to whether an identification had been made. Mr. Reinecke was informed that upon the return of the Director to his office, he would undoubtedly communicate with the chief of police at Detroit as to the information obtained from the Bureau's files.

Mr. Suydam endeavored to reach me on two or three occasions by telephone. However, I was out of the office.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

61-7398-27

JUN 1 1936

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Beard
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Jones
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Black Legion

JEH:AS

May 25, 1936

Time: 5:37 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion at Detroit.

Colonel Gates telephoned and stated that he had received several calls inquiring if the Bureau had been asked to investigate the Black Legion case. I stated that we had not and that the Bureau was not in the case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

61-7398-28

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 27 1936 A. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Ferrier
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Banghman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph

EAT:RLG

May 25, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Frank Waldrop called and said there is a rumor current among the newspaper people that evidently emanates from a District Attorney in Michigan, to the effect that the Bureau is going to initiate an investigation of the Black Legion and wipe it out over night.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.

RECORDED

61-7398-29

MAY 29 1936

EAT:TMF

May 25, 1936

Mr. W. H. Moran,
Chief, Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moran:

Confirming the information furnished to you by telephone today by Mr. Tamm of this Bureau, you are advised that the following telegram was received today from Flint, Michigan, bearing the signature of R. E. Roberts, City Editor of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan:

"Confidential information from member Black Legion here says organization intends harm to President Roosevelt - planning armed march on Washington. Informant available. Believe 2,000 here."

This information is transmitted to you for any attention deemed appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

61-7398-30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 26 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 25 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Jospeh
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Miss Gandy

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

EFE:EHG
61-7398-31

June 2, 1936.

RECORDED

Miss Julia F. Daly,
5523 Paseo Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 23, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clippings, furnishing an expression of your views relative to the criminal activities on the part of the Black Legion, and requesting that an appropriate investigation be conducted by this Bureau in regard thereto.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of such a Federal law, no action can be taken by the Bureau in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECEIVED
JUN 3 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Kansas City

6 5/22/36

J. Edgar Hoover.

In the news, "Black Legion" in my judgement are Public Enemy #1, you would do this Country a real service if you could clean up on this class of all American 100% — John Dillinger was a gentleman in comparison to this organization.

RECORDED & INDEXED JUN 4 1936

61-7398-31

INVESTIGATION

Now you don't care how you do the job, you can get rich quick if you want the job done.

Office site Kansas 6/2/36

254

I wish I could be of some kind of service to you for God knows they will have to be cleaned up soon, do your best.

Yours truly

[redacted]

RECEIVED
MAY 28 1936 AM
NO LOCK SEAL

## "BLACK LEGION" SLAYERS—(Wirephoto).

EXECUTIONERS, CHARGE POLICE—The four men who confessed slaying Charles A. Poole, a young worker. The men are members of a secret organization termed the "Black Legion." Poole was murd police say, because he had beaten his wife. Mrs. Poole denied she was mistreated by her husband. Fron to right are Daytim Dean, Harvey Davis, Urban Lipps and Irvin Lee.

TRAGIC ROBES—Detectives are shown wearing regalia worn by "Black Legion" slayers of Charles A. Poole. Firearms taken from men are being examined by the officers.

May-23-1936

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## CHILD OF KU KLUX KLAN

### AUTHORITIES DELVE INTO MYSTERIES OF THE "BLACK LEGION."

**Similar, but "a Higher Organization." One of Four Who Have Admitted Detroit Ritual Killing Explains.**

(By the Associated Press.)

DETROIT, May 22.—Duncan C. McCrea, prosecutor, sought tonight to unravel the mysteries of the "Black Legion," four members of which have confessed, he said, that they killed Charles A. Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker, because he was accused of beating his wife.

The men who McCrea and John I. Navarre, police inspector, said had admitted they were present when Poole was shot to death at a roadside the night of May 12, are Harvey Davis, 38, a "colonel" in the fantastic organization; Dayton Dean, 36; Irvin Lee and Urban Lipps.

McCrea said he would ask murder warrants tomorrow for them and for George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin, who, he said, also were present at the slaying.

The prosecutor said those seven and nine other alleged members of the organization held for slaying, were tight-lipped about the details of the "Black Legion," but from Lipps, he said, came some information.

REPRISALS ARE FEARED.

Lipps, he said, although expressing fear of reprisals from other members, told him that the "Black Legion" is "something like the Ku Klux Klan, only it is a higher organization."

Literature found in the "Black Legion's" meeting place and in the homes of alleged members bore the name "United Brotherhood of

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is known to [illegible] among themselves, the members refer to the organization as the Black Legion."

The Detroit News quoted Lipps as saying the head of the organization is called "major general" and that the other officers hold military titles, down to corporal.

"I can't think what the major general's last name is," the News quoted Lipps, "but his first name is Wilbur. The password is 'secrecy always.'

OUTGROWTH OF KLAN.

"To belong to the legion, you have to have been a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The dues are 10 cents a month."

Inspector Navarre said some of the men told him the organization had branches in other cities, but that they refused to name the cities from fear of reprisals.

Literature of the "United Brotherhood" said the purpose of the order was to "promote, protect and preserve Protestantism; to create and guard the welfare of the Protestant people socially as well as politically." Other documents found in the meeting place indicated the order is anti-Jewish, anti-Negro, and that its purposes include opposition to Communism and defense of the Constitution.

Navarre said Dean confessed he fired two shots into Poole's body, that Lee had admitted firing at the victim, and that Davis had confessed he directed the shooting, while Lipps admitted he was a witness.

BLAMES RELATIVES' COMPLAINTS.

"I planned the expedition only as a whipping party," McCrea quoted Davis as saying in a formal statement following his confession. The "party" was planned, Davis said, because two relatives of Poole's wife had said he beat and kicked her.

"I shot him; I thought it was my job, according to our discussion," McCrea said Dean told him.

Davis and Dean are employees of the Detroit public lighting commission. Most of the others held are factory workers. Davis came to Detroit from Lexington, Ky., sixteen years ago; Lipps from Pucatunna, Miss., eighteen months ago.

Navarre said thirty-four other members of the organization were being sought as having attended a meeting of the "Wolverine Republican League" at which the abduction of Poole was planned.

Headquarters of the league, which is not connected with the Republican party, were raided today and a dozen firearms, a large quantity of ammunition, two daggers, and several black robes and hoods, bearing a skull and crossbones insignia, were confiscated.

A NEW RISK CODE ATTEMPT.

O'Malley Urges Missourians Will Ignore Petitions.

ANSAS CITY STAR.

# MURDER BY HOODED BAND

BLACK LEGION MAY HAVE COMMITTED SEVERAL SLAYINGS.

Michigan State Police Head Gets Reports Deaths Were Made to Appear Suicides—Check Missing Persons.

(By the Associated Press.)

LANSING, MICH., May 23.—Capt. I. H. Marmon of the state police today announced he had received an unconfirmed report that members of the Black Legion, secret vigilante society, had killed several men and made their deaths appear to be suicides.

Marmon said he had sent two officers to Jackson, Mich., to investigate a report from informant whose name was not disclosed that a terrorist group had killed a man there recently.

"There have been a number of questionable suicides in the state," Marmon said. "We are checking the list of missing persons in Jackson and all unsolved murder cases and doubtful suicide cases."

## WIDE SPREAD OF TERROR.

Activities of the "Black Legion" Go Far.

DETROIT, May 23.—Disclosures that hooded night-riders of the "Black Legion" have been terrorizing parts of Michigan for a year, even attempting to seize control of one city government, came today on the heels of the arrest of sixteen of the Black Legionnaires in connection with the murder of Charles A. Poole here.

Roving bands of the night-raiders who executed Poole, a former WPA worker, on an apparently spurious charge Poole beat his wife, also were accused by Police Inspector John I. Navarre of conducting several "horse-whipping parties" here, while the "Black Legion" itself divided the city up into "zones."

"The murder also brought charges the black-robed cult in Pontiac tried to dominate the Pontiac city elections fourteen months ago, threatened three political candidates there with death, kidnaped a former member of the band, handcuffed him to a tree and threatened to kill him.

The Pontiac charges were based on revelations by Arthur P. Bogue, public prosecutor there at the time of the kidnaping. It also was recalled that charge once were publicly made that some members of the "Black Legion" also were officers of the Pontiac police department and tried to oust George Eckhardt, former police chief. The latter was found not guilty of charges he said were "trumped up" by the secret organization.

In Pontiac, according to one reliable source, the "Black Legion" boasts 2,000 members.

In Flint, according to information given police here, there are about 2,100 members, including a member of the city government there. Other chapters of the cult were believed active in many other Michigan cities. One man who was questioned by Police Inspector Navarre here claimed the "Black Legion" had 7 million members throughout the country.

Inspector Navarre said "the Black Legion has a far flung organization in Detroit; they have the city divided up into zones and each district has its own organization; many of them are masking under the guise of social and political clubs."

*RAIL PENSIONS ARE NEAR.*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT:TMF

May 25, 1936

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I have talked to Mr. Reinecke at Detroit about the Black Legion murders appearing in the newspapers and told Mr. Reinecke that you have observed newspaper dispatches and heard radio announcements that the Federal authorities have offered full cooperation in this matter. Mr. Reinecke stated that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in the case and as a matter of fact, the police have not contacted the Detroit Office. Mr. Reinecke said that he has had a number of calls from the newspapers asking whether the Bureau would enter the case, and has informed the inquiring parties that the matter, in so far as the facts are known to him, have not to date disclosed any violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

It is not unlikely that statements concerning the cooperation of Federal authorities emanates from the fact that the Bureau made an identification of the fingerprints sent in by wire photo of Poole, the victim of a murder plot. You will recall that Poole is the individual about whom you called the Detroit Police Department a week or more ago.

I asked Mr. Reinceke as to the general extent and nature of the developments in this matter, and he stated that the police have made four or five arrests of individuals who have admitted membership in an organization known as the Black Legion. These people had in their possession the regalia that has been pictured in the newspapers, and according to Reinecke's information, one, at least of the persons arrested as admitted that a number of the members of the Black Legion killed Poole, because of a complaint that they had received, which indicated that Poole was abusing his wife.

The police have learned that some months ago an individual died at Jackson, Michigan, presumably from diabetes. Within the last day or so, however, his wife has come forward and claimed that he was taken from his house one night and beaten by a crowd, presumably of the Black Legion. It is reported that at least two Prison Guards of the State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan are members of the Black Legion and Reinecke states that recent information is that one of the Prison Guards has been suspended for his membership in this organization. It is further reported that a list of the members of the Black Legion was found in the possession of one of the Prison Guards. In answer to any inquiries as to the indicated

61-7388-32

JUN 1 1936 RECORDED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1936 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

size of the organization, Reinecke stated that so far the police have found indications that about 10 people belong to the organization from various items located, but the prosecuting attorney has stated that if the organization is recruited to its full strength in Michigan, it has 135,000 members. Mr. Reinecke stated that the organization has two objectives, the fostering of Protestantism and the suppression of Communism.

There has been absolutely no indication of an organization on a national scale, although there have been some rumors that the President of the Black Legion resides in West Virginia. The individuals identified as participating in the Black Legion to date are from the mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky. These individuals, according to Reinecke, are typical "hill billies" who came into Detroit and obtained work in industrial pursuits there.

From the facts available there is nothing to indicate any violation of a Federal Statute within our jurisdiction and I do not believe we should enter into this case or publicly offer any assistance to the Detroit Police in the absence of some showing of a Federal violation. Of course if the Detroit Police want any Laboratory work or anything of that kind done, I believe we should do it, but I don't think we should make any statement upon the matter.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

Time - 12:15 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Pursuant to your instructions, I telephoned Chief Moran of the Secret Service here in Washington and read to him the telegram which the Bureau received from the city editor, Mr. R. E. Roberts, of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan, stating that one of the members of the Black Legion has stated the Legion is planning an armed march on Washington for the purpose of assassinating the President of the United States.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

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INDEXED

61-7[illegible] 3[illegible]

JUN 3 1936

MAY 27 1936

EFE:MC

61-7398 - 36 June 3, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. Fred Cook,
729 East Elm Street,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated May 25, 1936, signed by you and Floyd Sanders, in which you request the cooperation of this Bureau in furnishing adequate protection against the Black Legion, against which organization you indicate the local officials are powerless.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action.

This matter appears to be one of purely local nature, and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Ohio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 4 1936
Cleveland
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

101

Okay 20 1935

Edgar J. Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

We are now appealing to you for co-operation regarding the "Black Legion" in Lima Ohio.

We have appealed to County + City officials without any results whatsoever

We feel we have a right for protection from you.

Please contact us as soon as possible

This case has been going on one and a half years with out any results. Hoping you will please act immediately

Yours Truly

Fred Cook and Floyd Sanders
729 E. Elm St. Lima Ohio

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7378-34
JUN 6 1935
MAY 27 1935

102

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION EAT:TMF
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
------ MAY 25 1936

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

RECORDED 61-7398-35

R E ROBERTS
CITY EDITOR
FLINT JOURNAL
FLINT MICHIGAN

INFORMATION CONTAINED YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED HARM TO PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO W H MORAN CHIEF U S SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH DUTY PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

SENT VIA PUBLIC 5 (N) M Per 103

POSTAL

BI27 GVT PAID 5 25 36 552P

R E ROBERTS CITY EDITOR

FLINT JOURNAL FLINT MICH

INFORMATION CONTAINED YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED HARM TO PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO W H MORAN CHIEF US SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH DUTY PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION..

BI R 27 W THANX

104

WESTERN UNION

MAY 25 1936

WM3 25

FLINT MICH MAY 25 835A

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM MEMBER BLACK LEGION HERE SAYS ORGANIZATION INTENDS HARM TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PLANNING ARMED MARCH ON WASHINGTON INFORMANT AVAILABLE BELIEVE TWO THOUSAND HERE

R E ROBERTS CITY EDITOR FLINT JOURNAL

Get to Secret Service at once.

858A

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 2 1936

61-7398-35

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

R3 BI

105

*Spread of Terror Cult:*

# MASS MURDER LAID TO 'BLACK LEGION'

## 'Master Mind' Hunted; 7,000,000 Members Of Weird Society Revealed

**DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.). The Black Legion, whose presence was first disclosed here in the Charles Poole murder, actually is a nation-wide organization which aims at a dictatorship of America by its gun-crazy members, Prescutor Duncan C. McCrea declared late tonight. Harry Coburn, McCrea's chief investigator, who said he got his information from a "colonel" in the organization whom he could not name, declared:**

**"The legion is arming men all over the country to seize control of the government."**

DETROIT, May 23.—A veritable avalanche of evidence lividly branding the Black Legion with responsibility for scores of fanatical crimes similar to the slaying of Charles A. Poole was uncovered by State and county police tonight, rounding out a new picture of the cult as a mammoth black-robed secret society, seeking political power throughout the nation.

Convinced that the whole fiction-like story of the Black Legionnaires' weird oaths, moonlight rituals and coast-to-coast political ambitions, has not been bared completely, Michigan authorities sought the "master mind" of the society, seven of whose members are charged with Poole's "execution."

**NATIONALLY ORGANIZED**

Police Inspector John I. Navarre said he has learned from prisoners' confessions that the Klan-like terrorists are nationally organized. And he quoted several informants as declaring that it boasts a membership of more than 10,000 in Michigan and 7,000,000 in the nation.

At the same time Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, investigating the Legion, said he received reports that dozens of victims had been flogged by the order of night riders and they definitely had a hand in some recent mysterious "gang slayings" in Michigan.

International News Photo

**MRS. CHARLES POOLE AND INFANT**
***Baby Was Born Day After Father Was Slain***

Thirteen alleged black legionnaires were being held for the murder of Poole, 33-year-old former Works Progress Administration worker who was shot to death on a lonely road May 13, after a secret meeting in which it was declared Poole had beaten his wife, an expectant mother. Mrs. Poole has since vehemently denied her husband beat her.

**ASK PROTECTION**

Dayton Dean, father of two and an employe of the public lighting system, has confessed he fired the five fatal shots, according to Inspector Navarre. Four others admitted they were present at the "execution."

The thirteen men, ranging in age from 16 to 60, have asked that they be kept in jail to protect them from Black Legion vengeance, Prosecutor McCrea said. The latter indicated that death was the cult's penalty for members who told of its secrets.

State police stationed at Lansing late today announced they had been reliably informed several deaths, hitherto believed suicides, had been laid at the legion's door. Capt. I. H. Marmon said:

**"We are checking all lists of missing persons and all unsolved suspicious deaths. Some, we believe, are the results of the Black Legion's orders."**

Details of one confession were reported to have bared a plot to take Albert Bates, Ford motors superintendent, out and "toss him in the lake." In another it was proposed members of the legion, who are supposedly staff members of the Pontiac police department, "get rid" of that city's chief of police, George Eckhardt.

(Copyright, 1936, by Universal Service)

## FAMILY
*Of Cult Slaying Victim*

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

WASH. HERALD
MAY 24 1936

98-35

# Inspector Reveals Tip Baring 'Black Legion'

*(Police Inspector John I. Navarre tells in the following story how information from a tipster solved the murder of Charles A. Poole and unveiled the weird activities of the night-riding, blackrobed "Black Legion.")*

**By POLICE INSPECTOR JOHN I. NAVARRE**

**As Told to Universal Service.**

DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.).—The murder of Charles A. Poole which finally led us to unmasking the "Black Legion" here was a tough case to break because for a long time, we couldn't get anything to go on.

Poole, with five shots in him, was found in a ditch along a lonely road but even after we identified him we were puzzled because the case had all the aspects of a gangster killing. But Poole was not mixed up with racketeers. He didn't drink, except a few glasses of beer sometimes, and we couldn't see any reason why anyone would want to kill him. He was a former relief worker, 33 years old and the father of two children, one of them just born.

**CLUES MISSING**

His family life was the same as any American family of four in their modest circumstances. That's what baffled us. That's how it stood for days. No motives, no clues—nothing.

But finally somebody came to us and told us he had overheard a remark in a beer garden that "something will have to be done about Poole—he's beating his wife." It wasn't much to go on, but it gave us a start. We went to the beer garden, learned that Poole had been there a few hours before his death and then was summoned out by some men on the pretext of playing baseball on some amateur team. And one of the witnesses—I won't disclose his name at this stage of the game—knew one of the men who served the death summons on Poole.

We began rounding up men and then we learned of some secret organization and dimly I began to vision what we were up against. As we rounded up the 16 men we are now holding, we found a curious thing. The fear of being locked up to them was nothing compared with the fear of talking.

**"LEGION" UNMASKED**

For a long time none of them would tell us much. But finally one talked and involved a couple of others. Then the story of the murder began to unfold, and what a story it was! They called themselves the Black Legion, they stood for clean politics, were anti-Communistic and considered it their duty to punish husbands who erred.

The officers wore those hooded black shirts with a white skull and cross-bones painted on them. They claimed their history went back to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. They had a regular arsenal in their homes, a dozen pistols, five blackjacks, and ammunition.

**PRIVATES AND "OFFICERS"**

I'll say this, whoever organized that outfit was no slouch. Those babies fairly cried before they talked. I can't begin to estimate the total membership, but I know this crew we got is only a little piece of it. They had officers ranging from privates up, just as in the army.

(Copyright, 1936, by Universal Service)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughm
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edward
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxwo
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Langer
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WASH. HERALD
MAY 24 1936

# 50 Deaths Laid To Black Legion As Net Widens

## Membership of 135,000 in Michigan Reported for Murder Cult.

*By the Associated Press.*

Detroit, May 24.—The roundup of "Night riders" of the hooded Black legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some 50 deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued tomorrow for seven men present at the killing of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker, and said the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some 50 persons present at a Black Legion meeting from which Poole, a non-member, was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan Prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, 42, also a prison guard, and who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was investigating a report 50 Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the Black Legion made its killings appear suicidal.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the Black Legion's membership in the State grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of 16 regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is much more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by State police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators, who said the claims were made to impress prospective members. At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized 18 men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for 15 others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

WASH. POST
MAY 25 1936

## Terro[illegible] At Home.

On the heels of a Louisiana verdict finding a sheriff guilty of negligence for failure to prevent a lynching comes news of the conviction in Florida of five policemen involved in the notorious "Tampa floggings." The lamp of social justice burns the brighter for these decisions.

What makes the Florida verdict particularly significant is the fact that the jurors had a complex case to decide. Though from a distance it appeared to be simply a question of whether the police officers had assisted in kidnaping and tar-and-feathering three men, one of whom died as a result, in the Florida courtroom other factors tended to obscure the issue.

To begin with, flogging and "striping" are not uncommon practices in that region. Order, it is explained, must be maintained among the armies of transient laborers attracted by the citrus industry, for these men often become dissatisfied with the small wages allowed them. In Tampa itself, a cigar industry, likewise operating on a low wage scale, invites further labor disturbances which, in the euphemism of a native of the area, "must be discouraged." Moreover, the usual cry of "Communists!" was sent up to distract the jurors. And both local and State politics played conspicuous roles in the trial. Finally, it was no secret that Ku Klux Klan membership cards had been found on some of the men accused of participating in the torture.

The verdict comes opportunely to lend force to the drive against the "Black Legion," a strong-arm agency of the same Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. Several members of this gang have confessed to the murder of a laborer "because he beat his wife." Evidence points to a membership in Michigan alone that runs high into the thousands. Organized to stir up the usual racial and religious hatreds, the society is now strongly suspected of many other hitherto unsolved murders and seeming suicides.

Authorities are amazed at a deluge of statements, from persons too afraid to speak before, indicating that the area had been at the mercy of night-riding fanatics for months if not years. Leaders of the organization, stripped of their hoods, reveal a characteristic low intelligence often verging on dementia. Creatures of the dark, they grovel before the light of publicity now flooding their dens.

Other States might take a tip from Michigan's experience and look about for similar shameful iniquities within their own borders. This reappearance of terrorism, whether in Florida or Michigan, holds an arresting significance for the country as a whole. Violence breeds only on discontent. To clap a few leaders into jail is only a start to[illegible]d solution of the problem. The [illegible]k of rooting out the causes of disconten[illegible]s a national obligation that has not y[illegible] been discharged.

Mr. Na[illegible]
Mr. Tolso[illegible]
Mr. Hand[illegible]
Chief Cler[illegible]
Mr. Clegg[illegible]
Mr. Coffey[illegible]
Mr. Edwa[illegible]
Mr. Egan[illegible]
Mr. Foxwo[illegible]
Mr. Harbo[illegible]
Mr. Joseph[illegible]
Mr. Keith[illegible]
Mr. Lester[illegible]
Mr. Quinn[illegible]
Mr. Schild[illegible]
Mr. Tamm[illegible]
Mr. Tracy[illegible]
Miss Gand[illegible]

RECORDED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
MAY 25 1936
DIRECTOR

# 50 "Black Legion" Victims Traced as Cult Is Unhooded; Dark-Age Barbarism Bared

## Seven Face Murder Warrants; Chief of 135,000 Is Hunted

DETROIT, May 24 (U.S.). A sinister and elaborate underground organization, patterned along military lines, calling for a huge membership of 135,000 in Michigan alone, was disclosed by authorities tonight as they revealed the Dark-Age ritualistic practices of the Black Legion, accused of killing two victims and possibly 50 others.

The theory that the Black Legion, already charged with gunfire "execution" of one man and the fatal flogging of another, may have been responsible for at least 50 mysterious deaths in this State during the past three years was being investigated by authorities.

### *Federal Search Hinted*

State and local officials issued peremptory orders for the arrest of every officer of the new terrorist legion above the rank of "captain."

It was intimated at county headquarters that G-men have begun a Middle Western search for the hooded successors to the Ku Klux Klan.

This report, however, was not officially confirmed.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced murder warrants will be issued tomorrow naming seven of the 15 men being held here in connection with the death of Charles A. Poole, young Works Progress Administration worker whose bullet-riddled body was discovered [illegible] days ago in a roadside ditch.

WASH. HERALD

## Seize Skull Hoods

Revelations of the blind fanaticism and awesome rituals of the legion came with seizure of voluminous manuscripts and literature in Jackson today. These contained the grim oath the legion's neophytes were forced to take and their pledge that they would "fight as guerrillas with any weapon that comes to our hands."

They were found, along with 50 black skull-and-cross-bone hoods, and two black robes, officers said, at the home of Ray Ernest, a Jackson State prison guard. Ernest is accused by the widow as the leader of a gang of masked men who dragged Paul Every, another prison guard, from his home and flogged him so cruelly that he later died.

## Torture Oath Bared

Officer Edward Johnson, of the State police at Jackson, said the oath taken by the Black Legionnaires read:

**"I further pledge my heart, my brain, my body and my limbs, never to betray a comrade; that I will submit to all the tortures that mankind can inflict and suffer the most horrible death, rather than reveal a single word of this, my oath.**

**"Before violating a single clause or implied pledge of this, my obligation, I will pray to an avenging God and an unmerciful devil to tear my heart out and roast it over flames of sulphur; that my head be split open and my brains be scattered over the earth; that my body be ripped open and my bowels be torn open and fed to the carrion birds; that each of my limbs be broken with stones and then cut off by inches that they may be food for the foulest of birds of the air and, lastly, that my soul be given unto torment; that my body may be submerged in molten metal and stifled in the flames of hell; and that this punishment may be meted out to me through all eternity."**

Ernest, held on a technical charge because a .45 caliber gun was found in his possession, denied that he belonged to the Black Legion, declared the charge that he had led the "avengers" who flogged E[illegible] was "ridiculous," and that he had no knowledge whatever of the legion.

Describ[illegible] the alarming growth of the [illegible]ack Legion, Wayne County I[illegible]vestigator Harry Colburn said he had uncovered evidence that the organization was being built from the ground up as a real army. Prospective members are asked if they can "ride a horse, drive an automobile and shoot a rifle or pistol."

## Five Brigades Bared

For Michigan there are five brigades of 16 regiments each, four battalions to a regiment and four companies to a battalion. The organization calls for 1,593 men to a regiment, and that commanded by "Colonel" Harvey Davis, one of the prisoners held here in the murder of Poole, was said to have 600 members enlisted already.

A grim phase of the league organization is that there are no "ex-members." That is what is believed to have caused the allegedly [illegible]al flogging of Prison Guard [illegible] tried to withdraw.

[illegible] not talk with [illegible]until he gets per[illegible]he brigadier gen[illegible] the secrets of the organiza[illegible]aled, none of those in the lowe[illegible]anks, knowing what is taking place higher up.

## Trail Cult General

[illegible]e 15 Black Legion mem[illegible] maintained a fright[illegible]henever efforts were [illegible]y of those [illegible] John [illegible]tor[illegible] and [illegible]ad fou[illegible]nd in the [illegible] "General" [illegible]at the

WASH HERALD

LAT:THF

61-7398-36

June 4, 1936

[redacted]

Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of May 26, 1936, advising that you are in possession of a document which you believe to be the original of the laws and regulations of an organization that is now the subject of inquiry on the part of certain police departments. I assume that the organization to which you refer is the Black Legion and I desire to inform you that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of that organization. I would suggest that if you have information concerning this organization, you furnish it to the officers of the Detroit Police Department who are conducting this inquiry.

If the information in your possession pertains to some other organization and you believe it would be of interest to this Bureau, I will, of course, be glad to examine the information in your possession if you forward it to me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 5 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7376-36

Columbus Ohio MAY 28 1936

JUN 8 1936

Mr Hoover:

I have a document that I believe to be the original of the Laws and rules of an orginazation that is now interesting the police officers of this part of the country.

If you will instruct me how to address mail so that it will reach you direct without going thru other hands first, I will mail a copy and and explanations of its origan address mail in plain envelope to [redacted] Columbus

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

Toledo, Ohio 5/26/36 J. Edgar Hoover Dear Sir: Relative to that Black Legion Cult you will find plenty of them here. They have a regular lodge out a Starr Ave. Village (Eastside) where they have wrecked & dilapidated property until they have driven our decent people - wrecked the place & have it all to themselves. When you get that gang lined up eventually you will get the mayor - the wonderful Leo a dozen prohibition enforcement agents who live there & lots of the worst southern scum. They vote themselves into office & force employers to give them jobs or go on relief. There is no use reporting to the Police or the Lucas Co. Sheriff or Riley - a detective would mean merely a chance for lead in the reporters life would just be worth a plugged nickel & his property would be destroyed. The Roosevelt administration is giving this scum class latitude, work with Your payer

61-7245-27

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 4 1936

FBI — DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 27 1936 P. M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

TOLEDO
MAY 26
5:30 PM
1936
OHIO

BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

THIS SIDE OF CARD FOR ADDRESS

J. Edgar Hoover

Washington
D.C.

TOLEDO
MAY 26
5:30 PM
1936
OHIO

BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

G. Men

61-7348-37

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAY 27 1936

INDEXED

FILE

May 25, 1936

Time: 12:15 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion at Detroit.

In the course of a telephone conversation Mr. Suydam stated that he had been asked if the Bureau is investigating the Black Legion at Detroit. I stated that we were not in this case as yet; that the report of the Bureau's activities in the case came about because the Bureau had identified through fingerprints the unknown dead person; that the Bureau will cooperate in performing laboratory or fingerprint work desired by the Michigan authorities. I stated that so far I knew of no violation of a Federal statute in the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 61-7348-37
INDEXED
MAY 27 1936

JEH:RLM May 27, 1936.
Time-10:02 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: "Black Legion"

Mr. Suydam telephoned and stated that last night, the Cleveland Plain Dealer called him inquiring if the Bureau had some Agents interviewing people in Ohio in connection with the "Black Legion". I told Mr. Suydam that we had not taken any action and did not intend to as there is no violation of a Federal statute as yet.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Nathan
Tolson
Baughman
Clark
Clegg
Coffey
Edwards
Egan
Tompkins
Harbo
Joseph
Keith
Lester
Quinn
Schilder
Tamm
Tracy
Gandy

RECORDED & INDEXED

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 27 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-7398-39
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 28 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
506 Fletcher Trust Building
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 28, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my teletype to the Bureau dated May 28, 1936, having to do with the Black Legion, and a statement appearing in the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Indiana, issue of May 28, 1936, stating that the Black Legion was being investigated in Indianapolis by U. S. Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities, permit me to attach hereto for your information the news item and a kindred item over a Detroit date line of May 28 (UP).

It is my understanding that this Bureau Office is not to interest itself in the Black Legion, or its activities, unless its activities are in violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has basic investigative jurisdiction, and that this office is not to interest itself in making investigations even when the facts indicate Federal Statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, until the information has been submitted to the Bureau, and the Bureau thereafter issued instructions to make an investigation.

In other words, no activity is to be engaged in by this office in the absence of Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

2 enclosures
JAD:LW

AIR MAIL

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7391-40

MAY 29 1936

JUN 3 1936

TOLSON
TAMM
NICHOLS
GOSS

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
5-28-36

# U. S. Reply to Detroit Plea for Aid Is Delivered to McCrea.

## 12 MEN ARE SOUGHT

## 15 to 18 States Involved in Movement, Belief of Authorities.

By United Press

DETROIT, May 28.—The Federal government replied today to an invitation to enter the investigation of the night-riding, terroristic society, the Black Legion.

Prosecuting Attorney Duncan C. McCrea pressed his search for 12 fugitive Legionnaires, whose arrests may bolster his charge that the cult accused of responsibility for killings and floggings is operating actively in 15 to 18 states and particularly in New York City and Chicago.

The Federal government's reply was delivered by Harold H. Reinecke, head of the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investgation, whose chief is Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings, whom McCrea petitioned yesterday for Federal intervention.

Reinecke refused to hint as to the nature of the reply, saying that McCrea was the person to make it public.

As he delivered the reply there came evidence from Lima, O., that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had looked into the Black Legion as far back as 18 months ago.

### Interviewed by G-Man

William H. Smith, an Ohio farmer who was kidnaped and beaten by Legionnaires on Sept. 29, 1934, said he was interviewed by a Department of Justice agent who told him: "You'll be called upon to tell your story in court at the proper time."

With a mass of evidence already compiled McCrea intimated that the 12 men being sought were of great importance to his investigation.

At Jackson, a grand jury resumed its investigation of Legion activities there. The jury already had issued warrants for the arrest of 25 men accused of kidnaping and flogging Harley Smith who was forced to join the Legion and beaten when he failed to attend one of its meetings.

### Grand Jury Probes Planned

Atty. Gen. David H. Crowley having initiated a one-man grand jury inquiry in Wayne County (Detroit and environs) returned to Lansing to plan similar proceedings throughout Michigan.

In petitioning Atty. Gen. Cummings for Federal aid yesterday, McCrea said.

"I know definitely that the Black Legion is operating in 15 to 18 states. I know that it is very active in the cities of New York and Chicago. I have reason to believe that the activities of the Legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a Federal offense."

He told Cummings that his evidence showed that "many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

"Of course, I am unable to investigate these," he said, "and for that reason I have sought the aid of the Department of Justice."

### 12 Other Hunted

McCrea's investigators and six members of the Detroit Homicide Squad were searching for the 12 fugitive Legionnaires.

At Jackson, Smith, the Black Legion victim, threw a new light on the organization's techniques. He said:

"Two neighbors invited me to a party about a year ago. I went and pretty soon we got to a place where there were three men in robes. They called themselves Black Knights. One man held a gun against me and they gave me the oath. I was scared. I can't remember the oath, but they did give me a bullet and one of them said, 'The next one we give you will be out of a gun.'

### Lashed by Group, Report

"I went to one meeting after that. When they told me there was going to be another meeting, I said I couldn't go to it. Well, about last November some of them came around to my house and said, 'Your superior officer wants to talk to you.' I went out to their car. They pushed me into the back seat. They drove about a mile. They told me to get out of the car. They took me into a house and tied my hands. Somebody said, 'What's the verdict—guilty or not guilty?' They yelled 'guilty'—and somebody said, 'six lashes.'

"They pulled my shirt off. They gave me six lashes. It felt like a blacksnake whip. It hurt. Then they put me back in the car and we drove a while. We were near my house.

"They took off the blindfold and told me to walk home. I went to one meeting after that—in December. I've been a nervous wreck ever since."

61-7398-40

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
5-28-36

# 'Legion' Messages Found at Apartments

Comrade!

[illegible] recognize [illegible]
[illegible] offered a [illegible]
[illegible]
feet and [illegible] through [illegible]
and [illegible] now [illegible] done.

[illegible] given [illegible]

[illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] like [illegible]
of the [illegible] and cross-bones [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] must and will [illegible]
[illegible] before August.

[illegible] now!

A lieutenant will call at your house soon. (At night in robe) Give your allegiance to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

[illegible] Major [illegible]

61-7398-40

evil I [illegible]
I will [illegible] and [illegible]
by the [illegible] of the [illegible]
I betray its secrets or its or[illegible]
Death [illegible]
the breaking of a law or [illegible]

GROW

Black Falcon-[illegible]

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
5-28-36

# G-MEN PROBE 'BLACK LEGION' HERE

## ALLEGED TERROR NOTES ARE LEFT AT LOCAL HOMES

## Messages Promise Calls Will Be Made 'at Night in Robe.'

## LIKE MICHIGAN NOTES

## Indiana Infested With Ardent Members, Says Detroit Prosecutor.

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indianapolis Times)

Notes purporting to be from "The Black Legion" were found last night in Indianapolis and today were being investigated by United States Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities.

They were found in two near-North Side apartments, stuck in doorknobs. The notes promised the occupants that representatives of "The Legion" would call "at night in robe" to accept their memberships.

Duncan MacCrea, Wayne County, Mich., prosecutor, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Legion documents now in possession of authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings.

### "Sound Authentic," He Says

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents, assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle.

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Legion is organized there and has been responsible for at least one outrage.

"There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches. On it was typewritten what was interprete dto be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership."

There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both city and state.

### "Death Is Penalty"

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"In the name of God and the Devil I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abid (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets or its ex-members.

"Death is the penalty for the breaking of a law or its oath."

This was followed on one note by the designation "611X7" and a blank preceded the word "Rank." The other note bore the number "610X7."

Last of all, at the bottom, appeared 'Black Legion-611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

### Message Is Typed

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must reorganize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and rush on through the night and show them haw (apparently typing error) it is done.

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the skull and cross-bone the terror of the world.

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please sign up now!

"A Lieutenant will call at your home soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

"MAJOR 29K1."

### Imprint of Stamp

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.

At the same time, Lima, O., authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion in their possession indicate that the organization went by various names in the different states and were designated as "Red Legion" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there, believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "The Black Snakes."

COPY

POST OFFICE BOX 2118
DETROIT - MICHIGAN
May 27, 1936

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A local newspaper writer called this writer's attention to a dispatch from Washington, D. C., which advised that United States Representative Clare Hoffman, Allegan, Michigan, had received a threatening letter which was mailed from Benton Harbor, Michigan, May 4, 1936.

This letter was apparently written by a crank and evidently has some connection with the Black Legion investigation now being conducted by State authorities in the State of Michigan.

An attempt was made to reach Congressman Hoffman at his home in Allegan, Michigan, but this writer was advised that he is presently in the City of Washington, D. C.

You are requested to contact this Congressman at once and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the receipt of this letter and whether or not it is the type of threatening letter over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

For your information, the Detroit office has received instructions from the Bureau that no investigation is to be conducted relative to "The Black Legion" without a specific authorization from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reinecke,
Special Agent in Charge

JDC/rrm
CC - Bureau

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 19 1936

61-7518-41
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 29 1936 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ORIGINAL FILED IN

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS
May 28, 1936

# U.S. Considers Joining Inquiry

## *Cummings to Confer with G-Man Hoover*

*(From the Free Press Bureau)*

WASHINGTON, May 27—Attorney General Homer S. Cummings will reach a decision within 24 hours on sending G-men into Michigan to investigate the Black Legion, his office announced here tonight.

A telegram was received from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County, asking that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be sent into the state. Cummings will confer tomorrow with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, and announce his decision as to whether Federal matters are involved.

Before he received the telegram, Cummings announced that he had been following the investigation of the Black Legion through the newspapers, and that as far as he could see no Federal law was involved.

Rep. Clare E. Hoffman, of Allegan, today made public a letter in which he was threatened with death because of his opposition to the Townsend movement in Michigan. The letter was signed "K. K. K." and was forwarded from Benton Harbor. The envelope in which it was forwarded carried the letterhead of the "Twin City Renovating Co., P. O. Box 401, Benton Harbor, Mich." Across the letterhead was scribbled the words "out of business." The Postoffice Department will attempt to trace the sender.

Hoffman has also received an abusive letter from a man signing himself "John Anderson, Aurora, Ill." The Representative was not inclined to take the threats seriously, asserting that he had received numerous abusive letters since he denounced the Townsend Plan. He could see no connection between this letter and the Black Legion.

Most of the contents of the letter mailed from Benton Harbor were unprintable, and the same applied to the letter from Illinois. The Benton Harbor letter spoke of a recent meeting at which Hoffman had been "condemned as a traitor and not fit to represent a dog house."

New evidence that the Black Legion is no new organization in Michigan was indicated by a statement from Rep. George A. Dondero, of Royal Oak, who represents the Seventeenth District. Dondero said that in 1932 and again in the 1934 elections it had been intimated that he could win easily if he would join the "Bullet Club." He said the invitations were always extended in a "kidding way," and that he did not think much about them until the disclosures following the Poole murder.

As far as could be learned today, no other Michigan Congressman has been threatened or asked to join the legion.

Do not work through Sh. Sheriff of Kalsap Co he is too closely allied. G.

RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
JAN 1 2 45 PM 1946
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

HAM:LCB

May 28, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

This is to advise that there were received today in the Identification Division, fingerprint cards from the Michigan State Police, Jackson, Michigan, on the following individuals:

Clarence Ernest, their #J-5326
Glen Ernest, (no number given)
Allen Bason, their #J-5327
Ray C. Ernest, their #J-5328

On the reverse side of the fingerprint card on Ray C. Ernest, there is the following notation:

"This man is Brigadier General of Black Legion"

The date of the arrest of these individuals is indicated as May 26, 1936, and the charge is given as kidnaping and felonious assault. The criminal specialty on all is noted as "Black Legion". All of the above-mentioned fingerprint cards were searched through the files of this Bureau without effecting an identification.

Respectfully,

H. A. Martin

H. A. Martin.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-42

JUN 2 1936

MAY 28 1936

EDWARDS
TAMM

EFE:VTL
61-7398-43

June 5, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. George E. Hopkins,
Clear Creek, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clipping, furnishing information relative to one Ernst, who in 1922 was in Alliance, Ohio allegedly as an organizer for the Ku-Klux Klan. It is noted that you furnished this information as an assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation of the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in furnishing this matter for my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Pittsburgh

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 5 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Cove Creek
Va. MS

May 27 - 36

Ack. 6/5/36
cc: Pittsburgh
EFE.

Dear Sir
In reading the enclosed article from the Beckley newspaper my mind reverted back to, I think, 1922. I was in Alliance Ohio and met a man by the name of Ernest. Instead of Ernest he was
ERNST
organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, and the district had a large membership. He later was sent to Joil for confiscating funds for flowers for dead members and charging some to the organization
He was formerly from Cocoms. Ind.
In sending this information it appealed to me there might be more than a coincidence in the name and occupation. If this is any use you may it with my compliments to one part of our Government Institution who returns plenty of credit for past service rendered.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-43

Very truly yours

JUN 8 1936

MAY 29 1936

George W. Hopkins

member of
Alliance Ohio

# HOODED LEGION FOUND TO HAVE UNIT OF WOMEN

61-2396-43

**'Recruiting Agent' Discloses Existence Of Auxiliary Under Questioning**

## Membership Of Six Millions Claimed

**Prison Guard Says Group Plans Overthrow Of Government**

DETROIT, Mich., [illegible] (AP)—Ex-[illegible] of an auxiliary of [illegible] as vigilante, [illegible] charged by investigators with seeking political power through terrorism, was disclosed today, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced, by A. L. Lupp, sr., "recruiting officer" for the black-robed order.

McCrea said he was seeking to learn the size of the auxiliary and whether members are required to vote as instructed by their superiors as is the case he said with the Black Legion.

V. F. Effinger, whom McCrea has sought for questioning, asserted in Lima, O., today that the Black Legion has more than 6,000,000 members, and that "it will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens, despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit."

Investigators here received without immediate comment a report from Columbus, O., that a witness before a legislative committee had testified that he was a member of the Black Legion and that a great many of its members had been placed as foremen on work (FERA) [redacted] in Lima, O.

The witness, George Armstrong, of Lima, was quoted as saying members of the Black Legion got the jobs on relief work.

**Organization Ambitions**

A [illegible] of Black Legion ambitions [illegible] was dropped into Jackson today by a Michigan penitentiary guard after his arraignment on a charge of kidnaping and felonious assault in the flogging of a relief worker, State Police Captain William Hansen said.

"Between you and me," Hansen quoted Ray Ernest, the accused guard, as saying to Trooper Howard Sellers "we are going to over-[illegible]

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HERALD, BECKLEY, W.

# Hooded Legion Found To Have Unit of Women

(Continued From Page One)

Father Charles E. Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower on March 17, was on the list of unexplained fires his investigators are checking for a possible connection with Black Legion terrorism.

**Many Angles To Probe**

"That is just one of a number of angles of our investigation," McCrea said. "Royal Oak (the site of the Shrine) is out of our jurisdiction, but if we uncover any new evidence it will be turned over to authorities there."

There were rumors in Royal Oak that investigation of the explosion of a black powder bomb in the basement of Father Coughlin's home several years ago also would be reopened.

Father Coughlin said he had heard nothing of renewed investigation of the Shrine fire or the bombing and declined to discuss any possible connection between them and Black Legion activities.

Effinger, who appealed to the prosecutor in Adrian, Mich., last summer for the release of three men arrested with weapons and black robes bearing the Black Legion skull and cross bone insignia said he knew nothing about the killing in Detroit or elsewhere by the "Black Legion," and declared "organization deplores anything of that nature."

The questioning of Lupp followed discovery in Ernest's home of a letter signed "Art Lupp, B. G." In which Ernest was asked "how are you getting along with your [illegible] If you're not, maybe

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

TELETYPE

FBI INDIANAPOLIS 5-28-36 11-38 AM CST FC

DIRECTOR

PHONE. INDIANAPOLIS TIMES ISSUE MAY TWENTYEIGHTH CARRIES STORY THAT NOTES PURPORTING TO BE FROM BLACK LEGION WERE FOUND LAST NIGHT IN INDIANAPOLIS AND WERE BEING INVESTIGATED BY US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS AT THE REQUEST OF DETROIT AUTHORITIES. STORY QUOTES DUNCAN [redacted] MACCREA, WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN PROSECUTOR, AS SAYING IN PART QUOTE THE INDIANAPOLIS NOTES SOUND AUTHENTIC TO ME, AND I AM ASKING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO ME BY ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER CUMMINGS, FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, TO IMMEDIATELY PROBE THE INDIANAPOLIS ANGLE UNQUOTE. THIS OFFICE HAS NOT INVESTIGATED AND IS NOT INVESTIGATING [redacted] ANY ANGLE THIS MATTER, AND NO REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO MAKE ANY INVESTIGATION

RECORDED & INDEXED DOWD

61-7358-44

MAY 29 1936

END

JUN 4 1936

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC PCB

TAMM

FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936.

Time - 10:25 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE [redacted]

Re: "Black Legion" matter.

I telephoned SAC Reinecke at the Detroit Office with reference to the publicity which has come out about the Federal authorities offering every cooperation in connection with the above matter in that vicinity. Mr. Reinecke said that this is absolutely all wrong; that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in this situation. He said that he has been called by the papers on two or three occasions wanting to know if the Bureau was in on the case, to which he replied that since there are no facts to date indicating a Federal violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, no investigation by the Bureau is being conducted. However, he said that the newspapers may have just put that in as a result of the identification by the Identification Division of the Bureau of the fingerprints of the murdered man. Mr. Reinecke said that the papers are trying to bring the Bureau into the investigation of this matter out there for news value, and, realizing this, he has very carefully handled every inquiry in order to make sure there would be no basis in fact or from innuendo which would indicate the Bureau is participating in the investigation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Reinecke said that the local authorities have not requested the assistance of the Detroit Office in this matter, and have not contacted that office either officially or unofficially about the case.

Mr. Reinecke said that so far as he can see at this time, there is not even a scintilla of evidence developed to date indicating aFederal violation of any kind. The victim of the murder, Poole, was found on the outskirts of the city, and the murderers were arrested in the city itself, thus eliminating the unlawful flight possibility. He said that from the newspapers, he understands a man died in Jackson, Michigan, some time ago and his wife is now claiming that shortly before his death, he was taken out an beaten by an organization such as the Black Legion, and that he died as a result of this beating. The death certificate shows his death to be from another cause. There is no Federal angle for consideration in this situation either. The victim was beaten on the outskirts of the [redacted] the beaters apparently are still in the city itself. However, in the Jackson angle, Mr. Reinecke said the papers indicate a couple of prison guards were members of the organization, and that one of them has been suspended by reason of his membership.

RECORDED
INDEXED
61-7348-45

Mr. Reinecke said that Poole, the instant victim, was found shot on the outskirts of Dearborn, Michigan. Through the identification of his

MAY 20 1936

JUN 3 1936

fingerprints by the Identification Division of the Bureau, it was found that he was originally from down in Kentucky. A check among his friends and acquaintances by the police out there resulted in several arrests, and the police obtained confessions from five or six who stated that they were members of this Black Legion. These people admitted, according to the papers, that they killed Poole for the reason that they had received a complaint at one of their meetings that Poole was mistreating his wife. This was the starting point of uncovering this Black Legion, a group of men who organized to promote Protestantism and Anti-Communism, etc. There were found among the personal effects of the men arrested some black robes which had been used by them. While there are claims running around to the effect that the organization is national in scope and has officers like the Army, Mr. Reinecke has no idea and has no way of knowing the extent or number of members of this organization.

Mr. Reinecke said that the people who are in custody and who have admitted killing Poole are people who have migrated into Michigan from Tennessee and Kentucky — George W. Barrett type. He said that they are just a bunch of low-type hill billies who have come out of the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee and have obtained employment in the industrial enterprises in the vicinity of Dearborn, and it is easy to see how they would kill with impunity just on the violation of a woman.

Mr. Reinecke is doing absolutely nothing on this matter and will not do anything unless specifically advised by the Bureau.

~~Respectfully,~~

E. A. TAMM.

217

EFE:TD
61-7558 - 46

June 15, 1936

RECORDED

Reverend Columban F. Kelly, O. F. M.,
Mt. Alverno Retreat,
Warwick, New York.

Dear Father Kelly:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to this Bureau's present attitude in respect to the matter of investigating the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in permitting me to apprise myself of your views in this matter, as well as your favorable comments relative to the work of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 15 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc-New York

2180

# Franciscan Monastery

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Mt. Alverno Retreat

Warwick, New York.

May 29 ' 36

Dear Dr. Hoover:

When I returned from Paterson last Wednesday evening I fou in my mail a copy of your address before the Boys' Clubs of America in Phi phia on May 20th. It is very good and I have glad to have it. I also heard deliver that address over the radio.

I believe that your Bureau is taking the right stand in the matter of in igating the unholy activities of the Black Legion. Those who are howling f the intervention of the F. B. I. should know that you cannot interfere unt there is evidence that Federal laws have been violated. No doubt such laws been violated but when it is clear that such is the case I am confident tha you will act. When the Bureau is sure of its ground nothing can or will sto you.

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Kelly.

61-7398-4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA

JUN 1 1936 P.M.

JUSTICE

JUN 23 1936 RECORDED & INDEXED

Reply 6/15/36

TOLSON
JOSEPH
TWO
Miss Gandy

[redacted] of the KKK, called at Atlanta Office offering his organization's assistance in the inves. of the Black Legion. Was informed Bu did not have the Black Legion under investigation.

emk

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
501 Healey Building
Atlanta, Georgia

EEC:rd
62-0

Mr. Hoover
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ranchman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

May 29, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Dr. [redacted] of the Ku Klux Klan, who resides at Atlanta, Georgia, called at this office about Noon today, after having been referred to this office by United States Attorney Lawrence S. Camp.

[redacted] when he arrived at the office, indicated he might have some information which would be of value to the Government in the investigation of the Black Legion. I informed [redacted] in keeping with instructions previously received from Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, that this Bureau did not have under investigation the Black Legion and was receiving no information regarding the activities of that organization. I informed him that in the event he had any information which he desired to furnish to interested officials, it would be proper for him to direct his information to the Detroit, Michigan local authorities.

[redacted] stated that his information was in the nature of theories developed as the result of his knowledge of secret organizations and organizers of such associations. He stated he had called at the office to advise that the Ku Klux Klan is ready and willing to aid the Government to its fullest extent in any investigation which may be conducted. He stated this Bureau should feel perfectly free to examine the books of his organization or interview any of the officials of that organization at any time.

He advised that inasmuch as the Federal Government itself was not interested in the Black Legion, he [redacted] would carry the matter no further. [redacted] requested that no publicity [redacted]er be given his visit at this office and his offer of cooperation.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-47

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM
TWC

FEDERAL BU. AU OF INVESTIGATION
FROM: DIVISIO & DIVISION #2

_____ 1936.

TO:

____Director
____Mr. Nathan
____Mr. Tolson
____Mr. Quinn
____Mr. Edwards
____Mr. Clegg

____Files Section
____Personnel Files
____Chief Clerk's Office
____Identification Division
____Technical Laboratory
____Division Three

SUPERVISORS

____Mr. Chambers
____Mr. Emrich
____Mr. Fletcher
____Mr. Foxworth
____Mr. Hood
____Mr. Johnson
____Mr. Lindquist

____Mr. McIntire
____Mr. Rosen
____Mr. Smith
____Mr. Soucy
____Mr. Spear
____Mr. Vincent
____Mr. Weeks

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

* * *

____Miss Gandy
____Mrs. Fisher
____Miss Gallavan
____Miss Conlon
____Mr. Ward
____Typists
____M _____

____See Me
____Send File
____Call me regarding this
____Correct
____Re-write
____Re-date
____Note and Return
____Search, serialize and route

E. A. TAMM - 5742.

209

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Pennington
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clyde
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schildor
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
506 Fletcher Trust Building
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 29, 1936

JAD:mla

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto you will find a news item appearing in the Chicago Herald and Examiner, issue of May 28, 1936, over a South Bend, Indiana, date line of May 27, 1936 having to do with the Black Legion and its activities in Starke County, Michigan. You will note therein that in the opening lines of the item it states that information pertaining to the spread of the organization in Northern Indiana was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here (South Bend) on May 27, 1936.

61-7398-48

RECORDED & INDEXED

Special Agent J. E. Jones, stationed at South Bend, Indiana, as a resident agent working under this office, informs me concerning the matter as follows.

JUN 9 1936

INVESTIGATED
JUN 1 1936 A.M.

On the evening of May 27, 1936, William Diedrich, Chief of Detectives of the South Bend Police Department telephoned Agent Jones at the latter's residence and stated that a man was in his office and wanted to speak to a Bureau Agent relative to the "Black Legion" activities in this section. The chief requested that Agent Jones go to the Police Station and talk with the above individual. Agent Jones diplomatically declined the invitation and advised Chief Diedrich that Agent had no authority to check into the matter or to talk to anyone concerning the same; that such an investigation must be first ordered by headquarters; that it was thought advisable not even to go to the police station and discuss the matter because of the dangers of false newspaper publicity. Accordingly, Agent Jones did not go to the police station and did not discuss the matter with anyone.

On the morning of May 28, 1936 while at the Police Department on other matters, Chief Diedrich called Agent Jones' attention to an article in the Chicago Herald and Examiner (Indiana Section) dated May 28, 1936, which article was purportedly written at South Bend, Indiana and was to the effect that a "Starke County man had discussed the Black Legion activities with a Department of Justice representative at South Bend." This information is false in every respect. Chief Diedrich explained that newspaper reporters were present after he, the Chief, discussed instant matter with the "Starke County man";

that he, Chief Diedrich, said nothing to them about telephoning Agent Jones and specifically requested the reporters not to even mention the fact that a Starke County Man had called at the Police Department to give information on Black Legion activities; that in spite of his, the Chief's, request, the attached article appeared in the Chicago paper.

Agent Jones is aware of none of the information offered by the Starke County individual and knows nothing of instant matter except that set out above and that which appeared in the attached newspaper clipping. Agent Jones examined both South Bend newspapers on May 28, 1936 for similar articles but apparently none appeared therein.

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

1 Enclosure

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CHICAGO HERALD AND EXAMINER
INDIANA Section
May 28,
1936

# HAMMOND BLACK LEGION ACTS TO DISBAND

61-7398-48

141

# Fort Wayne Hooded Riders Kidnap Township Officials; Ordeal Described to Sheriff

***Indiana's Robed Riders—***

## FEARFUL 'LEGION' RECRUIT TALKS

### *Starke County Member's Story Laid Before G-Man*

SOUTH BEND, May 27.—Information pertaining to the spread in northern Indiana of the notorious Black Legion, whose criminal activities in Michigan resulted in a nationwide investigation, was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here today.

The information was volunteered to Assistant Chief of Police William Diedrich by a business man of Starke County.

The informant was said to be a member of the black legion who did not realize its criminal proclivities and fears now to renounce his membership.

An amazingly large membership in the legion in northern counties of the state is said to exist.

Alexander Campbell, assistant United States district attorney, stationed here, said this afternoon that nothing pertaining to the Black Legion's activities had been brought to his attention. Prosecutor George L. Rulison of St. Joseph County and his Mishawaka deputy, Paul S. Bryant, made similar statements.

However, it was reported that a branch of the United Brethren of America, said to be connected with the legion, is active in Mishawaka, where its members meet secretly in private homes. The United Brethren of America is not the official title of the Black Legion but the latter organization uses that title in some of its literature.

Chief of Police James L. Guy of Mishawaka said that the Mishawaka organization is apparently peaceful. It was reported active politically about two years ago.

One of the strange features of the Black Legion organization in Indiana, Diedrich was told, is that it is now, at least, not requiring payment of dues from its recruits. It is believed this has induced many men, unaware of the organization's true purpose of hate, to join.

## Cult's Armed 'Jury' Sits on Crescent Throne; Threatens Two With Death

HAMMOND, May 27.—Approximately 250 members of the Black Legion in Hammond were scheduled to meet at midnight, it was learned, to decide whether the unit should be disbanded in the face of developments in Detroit.

It was learned authoritatively that the Hammond branch has been in existence since last September. The local clan met for a while in a downtown clubroom and later in an office building.

FORT WAYNE, May 27.—Kidnaping of a former township official and his chief deputy were revealed tonight by Sheriff George W. Gillie as authorities pushed their investigation into the activities of the Mystic Order of Black Snakes, hooded cult, which the sheriff believes is an agency of the Black Legion.

The sheriff did not reveal the names of the cult victims, adding that he has no evidence tangible enough on which to issue warrants for arrest of the abductors.

The two officials, Gillie said, were strolling along Calhoun st. when four armed men ordered

Their hands tied behind their backs and blindfolded, the two were taken on a long, devious ride, finally being led into a circle of ominous, hooded figures, the sheriff said.

142

**ADDRESSED BY LEADER.**

According to the story told the sheriff by the two officials, twelve hooded men with pistols sat upon a crescent throne, surrounded by a silent circle of figures clad in black, unrevealing robes.

The hooded leader of the cult, the victims told the sheriff, then addressed them, stating that the cult had obtained information that the officials were contemplating the discharge of two of its members, who were in the township officials' employ.

Should they carry out their plans, the hooded figure warned, the officials would again be kidnaped and beaten with a vicious blacksnake whip—which lay on the ground before them.

The leader added that "worse consequences" might follow. This the two victims interpreted as a threat of death.

**WPA WORKER'S STORY.**

The township officials and his deputy then were taken back to the spot where they had been abducted and released.

A Works Progress Administration worker today also told the sheriff how he had been duped into becoming a member of the cult, but that he had never attended a meeting. He said that coworkers had recently advised him to attend meetings regularly "or suffer the consequences."

—Buy American—

MFE:LE
61-7598-49

RECORDED

June 8, 1936

Mrs. [redacted]
972 Harriatta Street,
Zanesville, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 28, 1936, in which you offer your assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation into the criminal activities of the "Black Legion".

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the "Black Legion" are in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

Your offer of assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated, but I must advise you that all investigations by this Bureau are conducted only by duly appointed Special Agents thereof. All applicants for this position must be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five years and must show by their application that they are graduates from accredited law schools, having had two years of practical commercial experience, or graduates from accredited accounting schools, having had two years of practical business experience and capable of testifying on the witness stand as an expert in accounting matters, or investigators having had extensive criminal investigative experience. Inasmuch as you indicate your age to be twenty-three years, it appears that you are not eligible for the position of Special Agent.

DOCUMENT CONTROL SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 8 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc - Cincinnati

J Edgar Hoover
Dept of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

7

Sebring, Ohio
May 28, 1936

RECORDED
INDEXED

61-7378-49
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936

JUN 9 1936

Mr Hoover -

I am writing you in connection, with a possible investigation into the activities of the Black Legion of the Middle West, and am willing to do anything that I can to aid you.

TWO

Ack., cc. Cincinnati 6/8/36. EJE

I am 23 years old 5 feet 11½ inches tall and weigh 100 lbs. and will do what I can to assist you in your fight to stamp out crime.

You can write to Mr Ray Warner, of the Zanesville

Police Department in
regard to anything you
might want to know
about me.
Awaiting Your Reply

I am
Yours truly
[redacted]

Zanesville
Ohio

207

KFK:LL
61-7398-50

RECORDED

June 4, 1936

Mr. [redacted]
926 West Ninth Street,
San Pedro, California.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, furnishing information relative to the activities of Dr. Martin Luther Thomas whom you allege to be a religious radio racketeer, and requesting that an investigation be conducted by this Bureau relative to Dr. Thomas.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the above named individual are in violation of any such Federal law, there is no action which can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc - Los Angeles

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 8 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hood
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nease
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Weatherly
Mr. Zimmerman
Miss Gandy

San Pedro California
May 26 '36.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

Sirs.—

I am shocked but not surprised the uncovering of a murdering Black Leg in Michigan.

If the Federal Government does not ta a hand to stamp out such vermin, I do we in California will see a reign of terr too in the not distant future.

61-7398-5

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 18 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936

We have here in Los Angeles a Dr. Mar Luther Thomas, a religious radio reach who I believe could bear an investigati

He arrived ~~eight~~ twelve years ago from Chicago I believe, in San Pedro to be a minister of the First Presbyterian Church.

Det.-cc-Los Angeles, 6/4/

His activities from the very beginning he were anti-social & wholly dogmatic and in the spirit of this Black shirt group.

He had special K.K.K. services in his Church in full regalia and on account of these and other activities was forced resign from the Presbitarian Ministry by demand of the district counsel.

For the last 3 years he has been broa casting twice a day on coast wide net wo (Heart Station I believe) under the slogan

Under the cloak of attacking communism he h
apparently accumulated much prestige amo
powerfull groups, as he now lives in a
mansion in Pasadena with the millionaires
and rides around in high priced cars.
This person was my neighbor for 6 years,
and when I write this, I do this not in a spirit
of revenge or of personal grudges, but
as a social obligation as I am residing
at this address for 14 years.
I have positive proof that this radio
racketeer would not hesitate to commi
violence or to urge some one else to do i
I saw him going into the yard of a
neighbor with a shot gun in hand, deman
her cat; the sancity of the home would no
stop him to gain his end whatever it mi
He even demanded of my minor son to
shoot cats around his home (he could at o
in the heart of the city, and if the police sa
anything to send them to Dr Martin Luther
In 1930 with the coming in office of the
notorious Klan administration of
Mayor John C. Porter in Los Angele
he became the mayors super-snoop
He also was appointed by the Mayor as
chairman of a committee to investigate
the Bureau of Power & light, the greate
municipal owned institution of its ki
in America, presumably for the purpo

expert why his neighbors would not hel
observe, that for instance, his garage do
was hanging on one hinge for years!
Recently he was appointed by our Klan
Governor as chaplain to the State Militia
with the rank as Major.
By reading between the lines you can readily
where he belongs now.
It is with extreme gratitude that I vie
the activities of our Department of Justi
to stamp out gangsterism & racketeering,
with this radio racketeer spouting
twice a day his hatred against ou
administration under the cloak of
fighting Communism, I hope you wil
look into the activities of this person,
believe this mans unholy influence
be used at some later date for some
violent purpose by those who contro
& finance him.
Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liber

Sincerely,

[redacted]

200

RFE:LL
61-7398-51
[illegible]

[illegible] June 9, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. [redacted]

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing information relative to your experiences while employed by the Burns Detective Agency at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Which position you state you were forced to resign by reason of your refusal to join a secret society which you believe is similar to the "Black Legion". It is noted you are desirous of assisting this Bureau in its investigation relative to that organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the "Black Legion" or the organization to which you refer are in violation of any such Federal law, no action can be taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your interest and courtesy in furnishing this information to me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 10 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Oklahoma City

[redacted]

[redacted] Oklahoma.
May 2[redacted] 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Clegg
Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Troy
Mr. Candy

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I do not know whether or not the Federal Bureau of Investigation will interest itself in the purported investigation of the secret society, known as the "Black Legion", but the fact that I am an applicant for a position as Special Agent makes me vitally interested in the continued success of your organization, and I am writing now to give you what little information I have, about what I believe, might concern this so called secret society.

In order that I might acquire some experience as an investigator I applied for a position to Mr. F. N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency here in Tulsa. I worked for him several Saturdays before he approached me on the subject of entering a secret society, which had for its purpose (according to Mr. Burns) things similar to the secret society already mentioned. Hoping that I might learn something of this society I kept an appointment, made for me, by Mr. Burns with two men in the Bliss Hotel. I spent an hour with them but obtained very little information. They wanted me to promote this society in Tulsa, but refused to tell me the name of it, or the names of its officers. I refused to join, and shortly after this, Mr. Burns asked me to return my indentification card.

This is not being written with the intention to promote my own interest with your Bureau, neither is it because Mr. Burns asked for the return of my card. I would have written before this except for the fact that I did not think the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have jurisdiction, however it looks now as though it will have.

I sincerely hope that if the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in this investigation that I can be of some small help.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-51

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,

[redacted]

Rek
cc-Okla City
6/9/36. EJE

JUN 15 1936

199

re: B

[redacted] Tulsa, advises that F.N.Burns of the Burns Detective Agency in Tulsa, for whom he worked, approached him on subject of entering secret society which had for its purposes things similar to Black Legion.

This man is the applicant who sent telegram to airport in Tulsa in Jan. of this year for Director requesting 10 minute interview. He has failed twice to pass Agents' examination. Recommendation Unfavorable.

Tolson
Lamm

emk

Associated Press Wirephoto

ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp, Sr., at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief recruiting officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in wom

Supplementary

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION 194-
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Note pictures inclosed - don't be misled by their "major forces" - if they can organize an organization of that sort - they are just as bad men or women as any you had to deal with - Same.

Sec,

JUN 3 1936 RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-52
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 3 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

From a national standpoint This is Federal job. You can secure deputies by the millions by giving badges and arranging an auxiliary legion - the County divided into Federal Zones something like other departments - of this kind of subversive - life - and constitution and government overthrow organizations

Over please

by any kind of people or for,
no matter what origin
or degree is not ferreted out
and a general federal supervision
style system maintained to see
that no organizations of that
sort are formed - no one can
prophecy what ruinous
national conditions or federal
or national system might dwell
both in relations domestic
and even [one dare like to
say] abroad.

Straight citizen.

If you get this
matter into a tight
team-work Federal organization
and make it mighty than ever.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
AUG 11 1936 5 PM

196

CLEVELAND, OHIO
MAY 30
6 30 PM

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington - D. C.

Chief
1st
2nd
Chief

# Founder of Black Legion Is Just Plain 'Doctor Billy' to Bellaire Home Folks

Special to The News

BELLAIRE, O.—"General" Billy Shepard is a nervous, active little man with a jet black pompadour and squinting eyes.

To the 8,000 residents of this Ohio river town he is known as "Doctor Billy," and for 15 years he has been health commissioner of Bellaire at a salary of $25 a month.

They know "Doctor Billy" as a joiner, a jovial drug store orator and a man who likes to be a bit mysterious at times, but, withal, a harmless fellow who can absorb a lot of kidding.

But William Shepard, commander-in-chief of the Black Legion in America, is a title which draws little more than mock solemnity or open guffaws from the sophisticated members of the Round Table Luncheon club, which meets regularly in the rear of Dankworth's drug store.

**Admits Founding Legion**

Upon such a man are the eyes of the nation and many parts of the world centered today, for "Doc" Shepard has become an international figure as the founder and leader of the Black Legion.

He admits readily enough that he conceived the idea of the Black Legion when he was thrown out of the Ku Klux Klan 11 years ago because he formed his own "Black Guard" by coloring the white hoods of his followers with lamp black.

**Klan Was Jealous**

"Grand Dragon James A. Colescott was jealous of the Black Guards' popularity," is the way Doctor Billy puts it. Colescott charged Shepard was trying to form a separate organization within the klan.

[Associated Press Photo]

DR. WILLIAM SHEPARD

# McMa Coug Party

Any mem Union for S to trade up behalf of af except candi be expelled

That was Sylvester V. sentative of Coughlin, to Raymond J. J ites and Town third party state and cou

**He'd Run for**

Jeffreys wa ganizations large, and n nomination. Yesterday he run for gove sponsored Townsend menis.

"Any mer Union who membership will be ex in a statem

"Any stat the National ing any act county or is wholly in violation of the ogar

**Congressne**

"The pol Nation U solely men. he partiate polit c have s part at that to gr pr

61-7398-52

Associated Press W[illegible]photo

ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp[illegible] at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told [illegible] their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief re[illegible] officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in wom[illegible]

NFRILL
RECORDED
61-7398-39

June 8, 1936

Mr. Edward Philipson,
2077 Sierra Way,
San Bernardino, California.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, furnishing an expression of your observations as to the purposes and activities of the "Black Glen" in this country and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate steps to expose and prosecute the leaders of this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. Inasmuch as the activities of the organization to which you refer do not appear relevant to any such Federal violation, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in referring this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 9 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Los Angeles

# California Citrus Pulp Company

Office and Factory
COLTON, CALIFORNIA

*Manufacturers of*
CITRUS BY-PRODUCTS OF
Oranges ■ Grapefruit ■ Lemons

May 27th 1936

Hon. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hon. Sir;

With regret we read of the activities of the "BLACK CLAN" in Michigan and other States and localities. Their Leader claims 6,000,000 Members, all determined to overthrow the constituted authority of this Country. It is a disgrace to our government and shows that we are lax in our dealings with persons or organizations which are operated for personal gain and profit, detrimential to the welfare of our Country.

Your G-Men have shown the Country the way. They have shown the good people that they can have FAITH in you and your organization.

You will be doing your Country and its Citizens a great deed by smashing this "BLACK CLAN" wide open and exposing their actitivitie prosecuting the guilty and the leaders and dis-arming these vicious men, whose principal aim and purpose is to turn our Country into an armed fighting camp, pinning various factions and religious groups against each other for no reason whatsoever. The murderous BLACK CLAN should be exposed and action should be the word.

Long life to you Hon. Edgar Hoover and your G-MEN. I beg you to move forward into this situation and show these outlaws of our Country that THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY run by constituted authorities under the Flag of Justice to All. Any and all that oppose our wonderful form our government should be exiled or deported or placed in Jails or marked in such manner so that the Public may know with whom they are dealing. Anyone would [redacted] fear of a rattle-snake because they can see that snake and we believe that your wonderful organization is the only organization that can run these BLACK CLAN rattle snakes out into the open where self respecting citizens may meet the situation as they see it.

RECORDED & INDEXED
PRAISE FOR THE G-MEN
AND THEIR LEADER.

Edward Philipson

Edward Philipson
2077 Sierra Way
San Bernardino, Calif.

61-7398-53
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P.M.

KRR:VTL

RECORDED 61-7998-54 June 8, 1936.

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 30, 1936, which furnishes information relative to the activities of one Gregory L. Smith, 251 Union Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is allegedly connected with the radical movement and communistic party in that city.

This is being furnished you merely for your information.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1134231

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 3 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Grand Rapids Mich.
May 25 1936

19
3

*[illegible] YOUR COMMUNICATION [illegible] ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Dept. Of Justice
Washibgton D.C.

Gentlemen-.

Have just heard that your department is about to investigate the Black Legion in Micgigan.

For your information I wish to propose one whom I consider an ideal type for this sort of an organization .

He is a member of the American Legion and the Elks ; and as you no doubt know , the later have established a fund of one million dollars to keep abreat of the radical movement in this country. He is also a member of the Communist party here . He used to be a high pressure salesman and is now conducting a one man dental and medical service buisne s. He makes but little money but always can dig up pleanty to buy liquor for the purposes finding out things about people which appear unimportant. He was one of a group of American Legioneers that kidnapped and beat up a number of the comrades of Mr. Stalin , in this caty on Aug. 1 st. 1931. He put the rope around the neck of a one armed chap and flogged the posteriers of another whom they had tied astraddle of a barrel. He is well read and a good talker. He has been all over and is bi-sexual.

his name and address is

Crescenz H. Smith
251 Union St. S.E.
Grand Rapids

Buisness adress
34 Porter Block.

Letter - Detroit 6/8/36 mBR

P.S.

Would like to add that thex Stalin's boys and girls do not know that their Comrade Smith was a member of the flogging bee. I have just seen some pictures of the affair, taken by one of thexxxx the legioneers showing his features quiet plainly along with most of the others. These pictures are now in the pxxxixxxxxxxxx pose sion of a young W.P.A. photog apher who is trying to sell them both to Smith and anyone else.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7398-54

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

16

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

GRAND RAPIDS
MAY 30
7 PM
1936
MICH.

191

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON D.C.

183

KFT:VTL
61-7398-55

June 3, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. [redacted]
Angelus Hotel,
Corner Dunsmuir and Howe Streets,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, together with the newspaper clippings relative to the Black Legion, advising that there is a person in Vancouver who has represented himself as being the head of this organization.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, I regret that no action can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

Your courtesy, however, in furnishing this information for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 4 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TELEPHONE
SEYMOUR 4094 4095

W. C. DAWSON
OWNERS AND
NORMAN G. TH
OWNER AND MANAGER

# ANGELUS HOTEL

COR DUNSMUIR & HOWE STS
VANCOUVER, B. C.

5/26/36

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Federal Dep.
Washington
D.C.

Dear Sir.
I liv at Southworth
Washington.
There is a man there in
the vicinity who represented
himself to me as being the
head of what I think is
the organization referred to
in the enclosed clipping
If this information is of
any assistance I can point
him out.
Do not address me at my
home address. Letter or comm
will get me here. Yours. Respy.
M R[redacted]

Cutting 6/1/36. "Black Legion"

RECORDED
INDEXED
61-7398-55
JUN 1 1936
TWO

JUN 5 1936

Do not w. H. Hough of the sheriff of Dubap Co he is too closely allied.
G.

RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
JUN 1 3 36 PM 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
JUN 1 3 36 PM
INVESTIGATION DEPT

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

# TODAY - - -

(Continued From Page 1)

calls the legion "the strong arm agency of the Ku Klux Klan."

* * *

The legion's idea of purifying America is shown in its preliminary oath. Before joining the legion, the candidate must declare himself "ready to take up arms against Jews, Negroes and Catholics."

A few executions in the regular way, with no help from the Black Legion, should convince that body that America prepares "purification" in the old-fashioned way.

* * *

Haile Selassie is on his way to London and British statesmanship wonders what to do about *that*. Theoretically, he is still an emperor, the British not having recognized Mussolini's mopping up in Africa.

One thing is certain, the young English king, who has a sense of humor, will *not* go to the railroad station to meet Selassie on a piece of new red carpet.

* * *

Those sanctions with twenty-one to one against Italy in the league did not save Emperor Selassie, but did cripple Italy's foreign trade, cutting off six-sevenths of it in March, for instance.

The Italians report a wide Anglo-Italian rift in Ethiopia, where the Italian conquerors would relish a command to march on British colonies.

No such command is necessary!

# MURDER PARADES IN WEIRD MASK

ROBE OF BLACK LEGION TORTURE CULT
*Members of the Order, Have Been Seized as Slayers of a WPA Worker in Detroit.—(Story on Page 7.)*
—(Picture From International News Photograph Service.)

# U. S. SOCIAL SPLIT; ANOT PARTY LO

## 'Old Guard' Announces Separate Group as Thomas 'Lefts' Get

CLEVELAND, May 24. Within an hour after the convention of the Social voted down the right-w guard" forces from New seated the leftist delegat Norman Thomas, the "o announced today it would a new party.

The "old guard" deleg the convention for a con its headquarters with rig ers from other states. York delegation leader, L man, announced:

"As far as New Yor cerned, there can be we will form a new pa

These delegations, Lo man, leader, said, are f sylvania, Massachusetts, cut, Rhode Island, Mar Washington.

The New York "old gu bers expect support amo cialist Party membersh states, he said.

However, rightist lea these states would make tions.

PLATFORM TODAY

While the "old guard" ing its announcement, t tion was belatedly org self, to rush the work tees. The platform w turned tomorrow.

Right-wing delegatior to the afternoon sessi not participate in the o of the convention.

The differences cen such issues as the left tion of principles adop troit two years ago an tion of local "united fr Communists on suc points as May Day dem

But the immediate fa dox's achiev

# Today

(Reg. U. S. Patent Off.)

## U. S. Dollars Emigrate
## Russia Kills Quickly
## Japan Cannot See It
## A Very Black Legion

By Arthur Brisbane

(Copyright, 1935, by King Features Syndicate, Inc. International copyright and all other rights reserved.)

"Americans investing huge sums in the Bahamas, to escape income tax," says the New York Times, big type, front page.

Americans have been "investing huge sums" elsewhere outside of the United States. Billions of American money have gone to Canada, England and other "foreign parts." More will go.

In all the Bahamas, 4,403 square miles of beautiful territory, THERE IS NO INCOME TAX. Think of that for a happy country.

Needless to say, if enough American money pours in to make it worth while, the intelligent British will find a way to tax it; meanwhile, for Americans that moved out their money early, the Bahamas are as "a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as streams of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Moving billions of capital out of this country to invest in job-creating enterprises abroad will not help our depression problem. The Irish can tell you what happened to Ireland when British landlords spent in London all the rents they collected in Ireland.

Fortunately for our tax-inventing geniuses, Americans whose business is creating jobs for other Americans, cannot move everything to the Bahamas. Henry Ford or Alfred P. Sloan Jr. cannot move their plants there; Myron C. Taylor cannot move his steel mills. They must remain, to be taxed at the sweet will of professors that never created a pay roll or a job in their lives.

Whether or not that is a wise system, time will tell.

Interesting executions here and there: Lithuania, after secret court-martial, executes four Lithuanian farmers, sends others to prison for life. All convicted of distributing "inflammatory pamphlets from Germany."

Germany cut off the head of a sixty-five-year-old man convicted of killing twelve boys. Before death, "examined" by Nazi officials who thought he might be a Communist, he admitted many other murders. He used a secret poison that doctors could not detect.

Russia sentenced to death a brutal, murderous petty tyrant, governor of a far away island in the Arctic Circle, guilty of murder and starving Eskimos. His assistant, also sentenced to death, "smiled haughtily, smoked a cigarette." Simenchuk, the Arctic tyrant, said "I do not deserve to die, and spat in his handkerchief."

VOL. CXI, NO. 9

# RADIO

# BLACK LEGION LINKED WITH FIFTY DEATHS

### Police Investigate Reports That 135,000 Night Riders Belong to Michigan Group

(Picture on Page 2.)

DETROIT, May 24.—(AP)—The roundup of "night riders" of the hooded Black Legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some fifty deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued Monday for seven present at the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker. He declared the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some fifty persons present at a Black Legion meeting from which Poole was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, forty-two, also a prison guard, who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

**CHECKING SUICIDES**

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was checking a report that fifty Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the Black Legion made its "executions" appear suicidal.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the Black Legion's membership in the state grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of sixteen regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by state police that it antedates the Ku-Klux Klan and that the klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators who said the claims were made to impress prospective members.

**KLAN DENIES CONNECTION**

At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized eighteen men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the

Mov[illegible] billions of capital out of th[illegible]untry to invest in job-creating enterprises abroad will not help our depression problem. The Irish can tell you what happened to Ireland when British landlords spent in London all the rents they collected in Ireland.

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You know what delays we have here, when the murderer can raise money for lawyers.

* * *

Returning to the plan to build up American prosperity by buying from foreigners, those foreigners seem not eager to adopt the plan for themselves. England persists in her "Buy British" campaign; and Japan's house of peers approves a bill "to restrict drastically the business of Ford and General Motors in Japan." Japan wants an automobile industry, really Japanese, and you cannot convince the wise Japanese empire that the way to keep Japanese workers busy is to buy the products of American labor.

It takes an American professor to work out that theory.

* * *

The "Black Legion" of 100 per cent American patriots bent on establishing a better, brighter America by flogging and murdering, turns out to be an extensive organization. Ten thousand of them, with black and white robes, hoods, skull and cross-bone ornaments, organized in one county. Police are working on some fifty murders committed by the Black Legion "in its efforts to purify America." It is found that murders were ingeniously arranged to look like suicides. Captain Marmon of the Michigan state police

(Continued on Page 8, Column 6)

[illegible]000 in Michigan one may be responsible for some fifty deaths.

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Detroit police, who seized eighteen men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for fifteen others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the Wayne County (Detroit) prosecutor's office, said that each Black Legionnaire carried a pistol. If the state ranks of the units were at full strength, the night riders had an armed force in Michigan alone comparable in numbers to the United States army, he said.

# Claudia Muzio, 44, Opera Star, Dies

ROME, May 24.—(U.S.)—Claudia Muzio, internationally famed opera singer whose voice thrilled audiences in New York, Chicago and other musical centers of the world, died here tonight.

She was forty-four years old. Cardiac paralysis was the cause of death.

# Bugs Says New Veteran Crop Will Bloom in 3 Years

By ARTHUR "BUGS" BAER

England gets ready for 1939 by preparing to sweeten the ocean with depth bombs.

Another World War in three years makes the outlook as bright as an idiot's diploma. England has lined up 900 munition factories to rush orders of calico, colored beads and brass anklets.

She is training 1,500 extra aviators who will go aloft with sprinkling pots and water window boxes on dusty days.

The veterans of future wars have only three years to go in order to catch up to their trade-mark.

(Copyright, 1936, Distributed by Universal Service)

Sir,

Note article - self explanatory -
This Effinger should be Arrested -
German Race supremacy dream
best the government of the
United States and put the German
race and German language on top -
You are doing good work - but
that's peanuts to that - Enlarge
your scope - if necessary you will
find millions ready to help in
your work of ferreting out this
underhand Enemies of the Government
of the U.S. and the institutions of
the United States.

They should be anchor to be
ferreted out and their property
or properties confiscated.

P.S.

Your Bureau and Department
should be absolutely Science
and Professional - No Political or
Non partisan worker of party over person

Straight citizen

RECORDED
INDEXED
61-7398-56
JUN 2 1939
FILE
JUN 2 1939
ENCL

as after 6 Both Parties
12th interest in the loyalty
and maintenance of the liberty
~~and institutions~~ of the Nation
and land - and the better
and more disciplined
government system the
better irrespective who
or what leader is head of
the ministry or cabinet rank
or position - So more science
more permanence -
something like military
best government and rule.

Same.

RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
JUN 1 3 59 PM 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
JUN 2 1936 AM

182

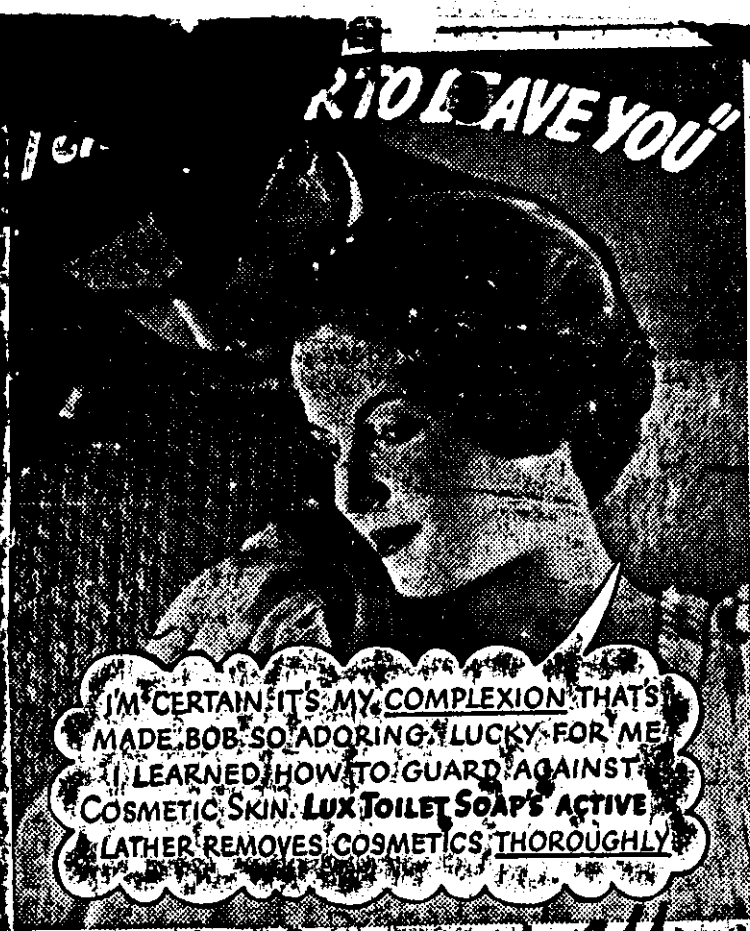
CLEVELAND, OHIO
MAY 28
10 30 AM
1936

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BOND
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

Department of
Justice
Washington — D. C.

attention
of Big Chief
Mr. Hoover
or at least
personal perusal of first secretary
to Big Chief





niversary, whil... the sidelines to cheer men ... spring in a baseball game.

## Firemen Save Woman From Gas in Home

Mrs. Carrie Baker, 57, ... 3405 Huntmere ave., narrowly escaped death from asphyxiation today in the basement of her home when a gas hose became disconnected.

She was found unconscious by a neighbor, who called police. Fire rescue squad No. ... responded and worked three hours before reviving her. She is recovering in Huron Road hospital.

## Window Cleaners' Union Spurred by Officials

The Window Cleaners' union today prepared for a revival of activities at a meeting with international union officers.

President Jerry Horan and Vice President Thomas J. Burke of Chicago, who recently named Dillard G. Bowles as Ohio representative, were to meet with members at 8 tonight in Meat Trades temple, 1000 Walnut ave.

characterized members of ... ganization as "hard," but den... legion had any official con... with flogging and murder.

**Explains Aims**

"We have 5,000,000 membe... have taken an oath to do ... work, to begin where the K... Klan left off and Amer... America," Effinger declared.

"We're against all enemies ... established government," ... continued. "We have not in... against Catholic laymen, ... are at war with the Cathol... archy.

"We have nothing agains... as individuals, but we wan... to remember they were pe... to come into this country ... tation, and they must act as ... should."

**Strong in Cleveland**

"We are not fighting the ... people, but we are here to ... it that they are not put in ... tion of authority over whit...

Asked about activities ... Black Legion in Cleveland, ... said:

"The legion has wides... strength in Cleveland. T... was strong in Cleveland, ... legion is stronger than t... because there is no racket ...

"Bear in mind that the ... hooded members aren't kn... name at all, but by numbe...

He flatly refused to divu... names of Cleveland leader... Black Legion.

It was disclosed that ... Smith, 55, a farmer, livi... Waynesfield, Auglaize cou... miles south of Effinger's ho...

## Roosevelt ... Leader Befo...

President Roosevelt was ... here today as the leader ... organizations and liberal g... a liberal "united front" du... coming presidential campa...

That position was given ... Major George L. Berry, ... Labor's Non-Partisan Le... the Re-election of Presiden... velt, in addressing the ... biennial convention of the ... mated Clothing Workers of ... ica in public music hall.

Major Berry, who is als... co-ordinator for industrial ... tion and head of the Inte... Printing Pressmen and ... union, said the league has ... a bureau of 4,000 speakers ... paign for Mr. Roosevelt's ... tion.

**Fight Reactionary Forces**

"We intend to lead the ... against the reactionary force... influence is largely mes... money with ... under ... treasured by Amer...

it's "Soft-Stilled"

Mix your drinks with Seagram's Gin and they'll be good to the last sip. "Soft-Stilling" retains the flavor to the last even when mixed with 16 parts water.

Superior Distilled London Dry Gin
4/5 QTS. $1.48
(Ohio Code No. 3178)
1/2c PINT

GIN BOY

GIN-GLES

What water does to fire—
What sugar does to tea—
What soft words do to ire—
What rain does to a tree—
What sunshine does to flowers—
What milk does to a Quin—
Is just the clearest way to tell
What "Soft-Stilled" does to gin!

SAY Seagram's

Problems! Everything! smart fashions to make your holiday a success! And . . . we'll do everything to make our terms convenient for you!

61—7398

★ **WHITE SUITS** in single and double-breasted styles with plain or action backs. $8.95

★ **WHITE COATS** in free-swinging swaggers, box coats and dressy types. At $8.95, $14.95 and $19.75

★ **TUB FROCKS** attractively styled in smart, new, fast-color materials. $1.50 to $3.95

★ **Washable SILKS** and cottons. Very good-looking "sports" and dressy styles. Unusual values at $4.95 and up

★ **PALM BEACH** Suits. Tailored of genuine Palm Beach cloth. Exclusively styled. $16.95

★ **All Remaining Spring Coats and Suits Have Been Greatly Reduced! Buy Now and Save**

# Your own terms

**FUR STORAGE!** Your fur or cloth coat stored and insured for only 2% of your own valuation. Minimum charge $1.50. Add the cost to your account.

*We Specialize In*

*A Complete Selection*

Rothschild's

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

General Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Time - 10:20 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Assistant Attorney General Jackson telephoned me and said this morning a lawyer friend of his in New York City telephoned and said that he had some information to offer relative to the above matter, and if the Federal Government is going to enter the case, he wanted to furnish it to us, but if only the State authorities were to investigate the case, he would want to furnish the information to them.

I advised Mr. Jackson that in the absence of any indication of a Federal violation in this matter, the Bureau is conducting no investigation whatsoever. Consequently, the Bureau would not be interested in the information which his friend in New York has to offer.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-57

JUN 1 1936

NATHAN
TOLSON

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

SECRET SERVICE DIVISION

May 29 1936 L

Mr. J. E. Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington.

Dear Sir:

Accept the thanks of this office for your letter of May 25, 1936 quoting a telegram received by your bureau from the City Editor of the Flint Journal, Flint, Mich., regarding the proposed armed march on Washington by the Flint organization of the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Moran

Chief

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-1398-58

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936

JUN 3 1936

TAMM

TWO

June 10, 1936

EFE:LL

RECORDED 61-7396-59

Special Agent in Charge,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous letter dated at Los Angeles, California, May 26, 1936, furnishing information relative to the location and alleged activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Los Angeles, California.

This is being forwarded merely for your information, and the advisability of furnishing same to the Los Angeles Police Department is being left to your discretion. However, no investigation should be conducted by your office relative to this matter under any circumstances.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUN 11 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Inclosure No. 112516

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Los Angeles, California.,
May 26th. 1936.

dgar Hoover,
ited States Secret Service.,
en, District Of Columbia,

nown friend, Mr. Hoover:

I feel that I have some information that you new about, and it comes to me through a very dear friend of mine whose and integrity is above reproach, and he informs me, that he is a marke account of his openly condeming the Ku Klux Klan.

n what he says, they are making life quite miserable for him, as they a strong out here, they try in every way to run him in to all kinds of tr such as V type pockets, cutting in short ahead causing him to have to the road at times to avoid an accident, and probable death.

ou have noticed, there has been an outbreak in Detroit Mich. and sooner it will happen here, and there is only one hand of the law that can sto d that is The Department of Justice under your command, and from what t s Times has to say, you will evidently be called upon to take a stern h

e is really what I want to tell you, my friend says, that there is evid ack Legion right here in Los Angeles, and that the headquartes of the K is in the Financial Center Building, room 902, the names on the door re ourney, G. W. Price, this building is at Spring Street, at 7th.

; looks that in the face of events, now would be an oppertune time to ra ffice, which no doubt would be very interesting to your department, I w liked very much to have written you under my letter head, as I have al fidence in you that one could pos sibly have, but something might happe ich you would have no control, that would let this dangerour Ku Klux Kl name, and make life miserable for me also, so, I sincerely hope you wil tand me, when I will merely sign my name as a good friend,

Very Respectfully, And Sincerely, Nou

A FRIEND.

Sct. Los Angeles
6/1/36. EJE

61-7398-59

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 12 1936

FILE

175

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
MAY 26
6 PM
1936
8 ARCADE ANNEX

ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief Department Of Justice,
Secret Service, Washington,
District Of Columbia.

KAT:TMF

May 29, 1936

Mr. E. J. Connelley,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
426 U. S. Custom House and Post Office Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Carbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Smith
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Golcher
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-7398-60
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

EAT:THF

May 29, 1936

Mr. J. A. Cowd,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
506 Fletcher Trust Building,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Joseph
Lester
Tamm
Tracy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED

61-7398-61
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 29, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gurbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Time - 11:50 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

SAC Conroy of the Atlanta Office telephoned me and said he just received a telephone call from the United States Attorney down there, who advised that he was sending over to the Atlanta Office M[redacted] of the Ku Klux Klan, who went to the United States Attorney togive him some information relative to the Black Legion, and who the USA referred to the Bureau for interview.

I told Mr. Conroy that the Bureau is not going to investigate the Black Legion in the absence of some definite showing of a Federal violation over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, and consequently, when Mr. [redacted] comes to the office, he should be advised that any information he has concerning the Black Legion should be furnished to the local law enforcement officials in Detroit.

However, I told Mr. Conroy that if someone comes in purporting to have information about a Federal violation, the information will have to be accepted, but no action should be taken on the same other than forwarding the same into Washington for transmittal to the Attorney General for a decision as to investigation.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7[illegible]-62

JUN 1 1936

JUN 8 1936

TAMM
EWO

164

RAT:TMT

May 29, 1936

Mr. J. P. MacFarland,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

61-7398-63

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Cleary
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

168

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RBH:CSH

May 29, 1936

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

1:45 P.M.

RE: BLACK LEGION

[redacted] Dumont, New Jersey, was referred to me for interview from your office.

[redacted] advised that she wished to furnish information relative to the Black Legion and requested that this Bureau institute an investigation of this organization. I advised her that in the absence of a violation of Federal law, this Bureau was conducting no investigation in the above matter, but asked her to furnish any information which she might have relative to a violation of Federal law. She was unable to furnish any such information, but insisted that the Bureau institute an investigation. When I advised her several times that we could do nothing, she became hysterical and cried, and stated that the country was certainly going to be taken over by the Black Legion. It appears that the basis of her information is solely what she has read in the newspapers, but because of her mental condition it apparently plays on her mind to such an extent that she can think of nothing else.

[redacted] requested that I call the White House and make an appointment for her which, of course, I refused to do, and advised her that she was unduly alarmed and that it appeared best for her to return to her home in New Jersey, inasmuch as she made a special trip to Washington to furnish this information.

Respectfully,

R. B. Hood.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 4 1936

61-7398-64
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 2 1936 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM TWOLL

May 27 1935

Hon J. Edgar Hoover Law Informent Boss)

Washinton

D.C.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

(1)

Dear Sir ;

Why did you not answer my last letter ,on running out the dinamit
rs, You claimed in one letter This was not under Federal Jurstiction,"
why in Hell dont you put it under federal Jurstiction ,the Local law
informent officers both Police & sheriffs cant or wont do anything,I se
where they had orders to round up the Gun toters ,but they cant fofind
any too bad ,i guess i have to tell them where when and how to fin
course they are not out when the can chance ,you must wait until afte
dark to catch these ,follows when the police are called in from down t
districts in large cities,for i know ,you can find a policeman in st.lo
from 4th street or the levy up to 12 street after 10 P.M. the same in o
r large cities when the tugs are out ,they tried to hold me up,when went
to law school, if you please, but i got away with them quick foot work
keen Eyes,

Enclosed please find clipping of post Dispatch of the Black Legion c
activities ,which the picture of one of their big chiefs, his as you see
smoking a cigar in his shirt sleeves,

RECORDED & INDEXED

Fred J Kern with his Little News Democrat Run the Ku Kluxers out of
part of the state ,and Defied them to pay he a visit ,I was at their
big convention they had all of ohio & penna down JUN 2 1936 and ,se
years ago when the had the fire drogs burning and every sign of a gun to
ing a big devor a

JUN 4 1935

JONATHAN TOLSON
TAMM
TWO

Now dont come back and say you have no jurstiction ,or do not know
who or where this bunch who wants to kill people who belong to certain
churches or politics,

if our federal government backs down or is in sipathy or one must be
afraid to say or write against them,i for one dont pay an other doller
for taxes to protect me or my property ,but will strap on a gun,& tell
them to come on,but i will hold the government responcibal for what happe
to me or mine, i am one of the largest tax payers in this burg they have
me charged to the limit ,i am a free born, and ask and insist action
if this dont come under your jurisdiction inform me where i can be heard
i will sure either write or go and see the parties or party in person if
his office is any where in the great U.S.A. and will find out if or not
they carry water on both sholders and are sompaipathy with such cultsx
not ,or are only holding down the office
only holding down their job for political or self interests
I certainly expect an answer ,or I will write To our Congressman & the Pre
sident ,will keep a copy of this letter ,why its an outrach ,one is no
safe as he belongs and not to another

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I would sign My name but who knows if or not one of You are in sipthy with this kind of unamericm business,

You may have members of either Ku klux or Black hand in your office for all you know ,better Keep Your ears open and Eyes Peeled and no not have c-in them like the old say ing was when i was a learning boy

I SHAL WATC H THE PRESS DISPATCHES OF YOUR ACTIVITIES,THE PRESS C[illegible] TOWN THE ONLY COURAGIOUS WATCH DOG ..TOO BAD FRED J. IS DEAD HE WOULD [illegible] THEIR JACKET

YOU HAVE THE ARMY AND NAVY BACK OF YOU TOO GET BUSY ,Or ELSE Resig

RECEIVED
JUN - 1 1936 CIT
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
INVESTIGATION DIV. 2
JUN 3 1936 PM

OFFICE OF

[redacted] STREET

[redacted]LEVILLE, ILL.

BELLEVILLE
MAY 27
10 30 AM
1936
ILL.

Hon J. Edgar Hoover ( Director [illegible] Low Inf[illegible]

Washington

D.C.

Joseph

legal me
rpate"
t ca
"monstrous

The raids in orse
were conducted by Colburn or
information supplied by a member of the secret society. The informant charged the hooded ban was responsible for the bombing o the home of William W. Voisine, Ecorse village president.

Prosecutor McCrea said the informant related that "police officials and politicians" attended a meeting at which the bombing of Voisine's house was discussed. Voisine himself charged that members of a secret night riding organization were responsible for the bombing. "There was a big gang of those fellows out here," he said.

McCrea quoted his informant as saying "When Voisine's name was brought up at the meeting there were shouts of 'Let's take him for a ride' and 'Beat him up,' but a man was appointed to do the bombing and it took place two weeks later."

**State-Wide Investigation.**

A grand jury investigation in every county in the State where crimes can be traced to the Black Legion was announced by Attorney-General David H. Crowley.

Charges of kidnaping and felonious assault were filed against 25 alleged members of the organization accused by Owen Dudley, Jackson County prosecutor, with stripping and flogging a member who had attempted to withdraw.

At the Southern Michigan Prison, where Dudley has charged that the entire roster of 385 guards have been asked to join the Black Legion, Warden Harry H. Jackson announced he had discharged Guard Sergt. Charles Cooley for activity in the affairs of the secret order.

Three other guards have been suspended, and one of them, Ray Ernest, faced arraignment today as a member of the band of 25 who flogged Harley Smith, a WPA worker, near Jackson last Nov. 5.

Named with Ernest in the warrants issued today in Jackson are

# TWO BOMBINGS IN DETROIT LAID TO BLACK LEGION

## Firearms and Secret Society Papers Seized in Raids on Five Houses in Ecorse, a Suburb.

## POLITICIANS LINKED TO ITS ACTIVITIES

## Western Commander Says Organization Has 6,000,000 Members—Denies Ku Klux Connection.

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, May 26.—Enlarging their drive against the Black Legion, hooded vigilants and Wayne County authorities raided five houses in Ecorse, a suburb today and found what they said was evidence that two recent bombings were inspired by the black band.

In the houses, which included those of two former Ecorse policemen, the raiders seized firearms and printed matter of the organization.

V. E. Effinger of Lima, O., who had been sought for questioning by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, issued a statement in Lima last night that the Black Legion had more than 6,000,000 members in the United States. He said it had no intention of trying to take over the Government. Aspirations of obtaining a governmental dictatorship were attributed to the order by Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecuting Attorney's office.

**Denies Klan Connection.**

Denying there was any connection between the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Legion, Effinger said "the Black Legion will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit." He referred to the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, WPA worker, for whose murder 15 men are under arrest.

Investigators here have called Effinger the "western commander" of the Black Legion, in charge of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Effinger refused to say what his connection with the legion was

## One of Black Legion's Head Men

Associated Press Wirephoto.

*V. EFFINGER, credited with being "Western Commander" of the organization, photographed in his electrical contracting shop at Lima, O.*

# JEWELED ETHIOPIAN CROWN AND SWORD SEEN AT SUEZ

## Egyptian Customs Officials Think Articles Were Looted After Downfall of Armies.

CAIRO, Egypt, May 26.—Customs authorities were investigating last night the discovery of a richly jeweled Ethiopian crown and a jeweled sword which were contained in parcels with which a shipping company employe attempted to pass through the city of Suez.

Officials said they believed the articles were looted after the downfall of the Ethiopian armies, but

# SOVIET DIVORCE TAX, REWARDS TO MOTHERS

## New Law Intended to End "Light-Mindedness" in Family Relations.

By the Associated Press.

MOSCOW, May 26.—A proposal to end the easy divorce system in

61-7398-65

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61-7398-65

[illegible] Man only who know[illegible] if or not one of you are in [illegible] American business [illegible] of [illegible] Klux Klan [illegible] in your office [illegible] you know [illegible] your [illegible] open [illegible] and no [illegible] like the old saying was when I was a [illegible] boy

[illegible] AL WATCH THE PRESS DISPATCHES OF OUR ACTIVITIES, THE PRESS IS [illegible] PRETTY COURAGEOUS WATCH DOG. TOO BAD FRED [illegible] IS DEAD HE WOULD [illegible] BACK [illegible]

[illegible] VE THE ARMY AND NAVY BACK OF YOU TO GET BUSY, OR ELSE RESIG[illegible]

JUL 7 1936
JUN 3 1936

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 27, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Time - 3:57 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. Cunningham, acting in charge of the Detroit Office in the temporary absence of Mr. Reinecke, telephoned me and said that Mr. Reinecke had just received a letter from Mr. Duncan C. McCrae, County Attorney for Wayne County, Detroit, inviting Mr. Reinecke to sit in on a conference which is to be held relative to ways and means of exterminating the Black Legion. Since the conference is to be held as soon as possible, Mr. Reinecke wanted an expression of opinion from the Bureau as to what his attitude should be in this matter.

I conferred with you relative to this situation and told Mr. Cunningham to advise Mr. McCrae by letter the Bureau cannot participate in any conference relative to the Black Legion in the absence of some positive showing of a violation of some Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau.

I further told Mr. Cunningham that if anyone comes to the Detroit Office with an alleged violation of a Federal Statute in this matter, they should take absolutely no action until so instructed by the Bureau here in Washington.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

61-12378-65X

JUN 9 1936

NATHAN
TOLSON
TAMM

JUN 9 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Room 4236 _____ 1936

Phones 560 & 53

To:

| | |
|---|---|
| ____ Director | Mr. Nathan ✓ |
| ____ Mr. Tolson | Mr. Tolson ✓ |
| ____ Mr. Nathan | Mr. Baughman ____ |
| ____ Mr. H. H. Clegg | Chief Clerk ____ |
| ____ Mr. Tamm | Mr. Clegg ____ |
| ____ Mr. Edwards | Mr. Coffey ____ |
| ____ Mr. Egan | Mr. Edwards ____ |
| ____ Mr. Quinn | Mr. Egan ____ |
| ____ Mr. Coffey | Mr. Foxworth ____ |
| ____ Mr. Harbo | Mr. Harbo ____ |
| ____ Mr. Lester | Mr. Joseph ____ |
| ____ Mr. Renneberger | Mr. Keith ____ |
| ____ Mr. Schilder | Mr. Lester ____ |
| ____ Mr. Tracy | Mr. Quinn ____ |
| ____ Chief Clerk | Mr. Schilder ____ |
| ____ Files Section | Mr. Tamm ✓ |
| ____ Mr. | Mr. Tracy ____ |
| | Miss Gandy ____ |
| ____ Mr. Chayfitz | ____ Mr. Nichols |
| ____ Mr. Dawsey | ____ Mr. Pieper |
| ____ Mr. Hendon | ____ Mr. Hicks |
| ____ See Me | ____ Mr. Acers |

R. E. Joseph

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1936.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Lester
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Please be advised that I have telephoned the Cleveland, Indianapolis and Cincinnati Offices of the Bureau and instructed them to conduct absolutely no investigation into the above matter without prior Bureau authority. I have told them that the Bureau is under instructions from the Attorney General to conduct absolutely no investigation into this case in the absence of some definite showing of a violation of some Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau. Accordingly, I have told them that if any allegation of such a violation is received, the facts should be presented to the Bureau at Washington for a decision as to whether or not we should enter the investigation.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED

JUN 4 1936

61-7398-66

JUN 3 1936

NATHAN
TOLSON
TWO

FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:TMF

May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edward
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

With reference to your inquiry concerning any interview conducted by Bureau Agents with a person at Lima, Ohio during 1934, in which this person stated that he had been beaten up by the Black Legion, you are advised that the Bureau records do not contain any information concerning such an interview. The Bureau received a memorandum under date of April 15, 1935 from William Stanley, requesting investigation into an allegation that employees of the Department of Justice were members of an organization known as the "Black Legion" or "Bullet Club". Investigation was conducted into this matter in Ohio and did not develop any information substantiating this allegation. Considerable information concerning the various phases of this secret organization known as the Black Legion, the Night Riders and the Bullet Club was obtained. Several inquiries were conducted at Lima, Ohio by Agent C. E. Smith but no one was interviewed who stated that he had ever been beaten up. An individual named [redacted] was interviewed by the Bureau agent, accompanied by Post Office Inspector Cordrey of Lima, Ohio and while Scheid furnished some information and stated that he had been a colonel in the organization and had some trouble, he did not allege that he had been assaulted.

The inquiries conducted by the Bureau at that time disclosed that the Post Office Inspector was in possession of considerable information concerning the organization and had probably conducted at least superficial inquiries concerning it. Information was received that an investigator for the F.E.R.A. had conducted some inquiry concerning the matter and that on one occasion two State Prohibition Agents named Fleming and Madden were in Lima, Ohio and it was the general belief among the members of the Bullet Club that these individuals were Federal Agents.

Information was received from [redacted] formerly a Major in the Legion that a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati had investigated this matter in Ohio, but the Bureau files contain no record of such an investigation.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7558-66X

The Bureau did obtain a list of approximately 45 names of residents in Lima, Ohio and vicinity, who were alleged to be members of

JUN 3 1936

JUN 9 1936

NATHAN
TOLSON
TAMM
TWO

the Bullet Club.

A memorandum summarizing the Bureau's investigation in this situation is being prepared this morning.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

[redacted]

c/o Ann Emery Hall,
250 Langdon Street,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. [redacted]:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 21, 1936, together with the enclosures, furnishing information relative to your experiences with the Knight Club, an organization which you believe is composed of the Black Legion, as well as the names of various of the leaders of this organization. It is noted that you request that an appropriate investigation be conducted by this Bureau in this matter.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws. In view of the fact that the activities of this organization do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises. The matter appears to be one of purely a local nature and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Wisconsin.

In compliance with your request, I am returning herewith the enclosures which were transmitted to this Bureau with your communication, and wish to express my appreciation for your courtesy in referring the same for my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUN 1 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Enclosure 61-10500-51

No copies of enclosures retained in Bureau file.

Madison Wis
May 31/36

61-7378-67
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 3 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

dear Mr. Hoover —

JUN 12 1936

From Dec. 33 - to Jan. 34 my experience with the Bullitt Co. ~~place~~ was not so good. I knew the moment I read about the Black Legion that the smaller organizations here are just a unit of a larger body. It did not take me long to see through the members. A fin dollar bill was my first suspicion. A member, the leader, Bill Harding, was bound to sell his valuable Canadian fin to me for ten dollars. At that time I did not think of ransom money. Now or since the Hauptman trial I know it was. The name Harding appeared in the News Paper during the Hauptman trial. That Politicians & Police

ack 6-10-36 & 36

departmen are involved in crime I know from experience. If I were to put all I have seen & all I know on sheets & pages it would take you weeks to read. However I will be glad to answer any questions & give you all information possible. Am enclosing material I kept for clues, which I wish returned for future use. I am going to ask you to let me deal with you directly, for I really have lost faith in courts, G. men, lawyers, police, district attorneys offices, politicians etc. etc. Washington included. Until I saw for myself that you really get them I did not trust nor put faith in you, or I should have written you sooner. If we refuse to turn red or black now days we are spotted I guess. I told lawyers, the rating bureau, a young attorney in the district attorneys office & several others that I was digging down deep to get to the bottom of all the ills of today & expose every one im-

pleased. I am for the past four years
if I speak to some one other I am then to go
to a few hundred dollars. I am well known
all over the states, where will you hide me?
I never feared the Jew here, but I am
helpless when it comes to our army. That
the membership runs into millions is
not at all impossible. I bet 100,000 is a
small fraction & I believe it safe to say that it is
not a new organization. They only change
their names once in a while. Well, here are the
names of the members here at Madison.

Bill Harding (Leader)
Gordon A. C. Grob (Lutheran. Very religious & accomplished family.)
Carl Jenks
Bob Willingang
Clint Anderson
Wilbur Calhoun
Robert Felder
Wm. Felder
Herman Kommusch
Arthur Klemke
Roman Klemis (Jewish victim)
Arthur Mockrud
Jim Le Bener
Clyde Pauly (lawyer)
Cora Patterson (Harding's mother)
Viola Mendt (Harding's sweetheart)
Theo. Young Plus

the names on card enclosed.

(over)

not all of these boys are bad at all. They remain members. Bill Harding, Gordon Grob & Clyde Pauly, are the dangerous ones. But they are afraid of me. There is another young lawyer. I am not so sure of his name this moment. He was in the district attorneys office there for a while. It seem to me his name was Pickard. He sure helps Harding get away with most every thing. Any way I am glad I had this experience & I sure hope this information will help uncover lots more. I know this group linked with several others. I can't see them defending law. They are just plain good for nothing gangsters.

Respectfully

[redacted]

c/o Ann Emery Hall

Madison Wis.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 3 10 02 AM 1936

FILES SECTION

RECEIVED

P.S. The Clut was named for Wm. Bullitt. Gemba under to Russia. This legion is World wide not in a here

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT:TMF

May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Nathan 146
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

There is attached hereto a memorandum summarizing the information in the Bureau files pertaining to the Black Legion.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

RECORDED

61-7398-67X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 17 1936

RBH:NC:VTL

May 28, 1936

# MEMORANDUM

On April 15, 1935, the then Assistant to the Attorney General William Stanley requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an inquiry into the activities of an organization in Lima, Ohio, known as the Black Legion, in view of the fact that representatives of the Department of Justice were reported to be members of this society.

Investigation disclosed that the Black Legion is reported to have been formed prior to the Revolutionary War, but following the winning of independence by the colonies the order was disbanded. Following the Civil War, it was revived and was active until post-war conditions again became normal. The current activity of the organization is allegedly for the purpose of protecting the country from being controlled by various forms of "isms"; however, it has been charged by some former members of the society that it was revolutionary in character, and the heads of the organization are attempting to gain control of various Governmental agencies.

Membership in the organization in which there are no dues is by invitation. Initiation into membership of the Black Legion is accompanied with many rituals, all members being at the time armed and masked. Under penalty of death, candidates for membership pledge loyalty to their cause; all Jews, Catholics and foreign subjects are declared enemies of the organization. Each recruit, who must be willing to bear arms, is furnished with a bullet and is instructed to conduct himself properly so that it will not be necessary for the Legion to ask for its return, for if this is found necessary, one half of the bullet, that is, the lead, will be returned. Death or departure from the country are the only means of severing connection with the society.

The organization of the Black Legion is basically military, that is, it is composed of regiments made up of battalions, which are, in turn, made up of companies, et cetera. The officers designated by military rank are headed by a general. After the fashion of the original thirteen colonies, the country is allegedly divided into thirteen districts by the Black Legion.

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 17 1936

61-7398-67X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 9 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM
RWO
FILE

Members of the organization are divided into various degrees, known as the Foot Legion, Night Riders, Black Knights, Armed Guards, and Bullet Club, the latter being composed of only selected Black Knights. It is said that various squads are organized within the Legion whose function it is to carry out certain activities, for instance, there is a Flogging Squad and a Killing Squad. At the time of the investigation, eight individuals were reported to have been marked for death by the Black Legion.

In March, 1936, the total membership of the Black Legion in Allen County, Ohio, was reported to be 3400. Former members of the organization have advised that approximately 80% of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in Lima holds membership in this society. It was rumored that 60 or 70 employees of the Department of Justice are members of the organization; however, investigation has not substantiated this allegation. A Detroit, Michigan, unit of the Black Legion is alleged to have a company of men fully equipped with machine guns and one battalion equipped with Army rifles.

Membership in the Black Legion being secret, it has been difficult to identify individuals as being definitely associated with the organization; however, several former members have advised that a Dr. Shepard of Bellaire, Ohio, is presently the head of the Black Legion. Shepard was actively associated with the Ku-Klux Klan a few years ago and has on occasions professed his hatred for Catholics and foreigners; because of his reputation as a loose talker, however, he is not taken seriously by his fellow townsmen. Dr. Shepard who was City Health Officer in Bellaire in 1935 is not regarded as a leader of men. Several years ago a band of gypsies was frightened away from Bellaire after several bombs had been fired near their camp, and it was rumored that Dr. Shepard was the instigator of this affair.

Claude Sauter, of Bellaire, Ohio, is alleged to be Dr. Shepard's assistant as head of the Black Legion; however, investigation failed to reveal the identity of an individual in that town under this name.

It is reported that V. H. (Bert) Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, is the head of this society in that district. Former members advised in his capacity as general he gives orders to the society in Lima

and that he is alleged to be responsible for the following incidents:

Some time in 1935 a roadhouse known as "Twin Oaks" near Lima, Ohio, was burned. Effinger has boasted that the Legion was responsible for this, as well as, for the destruction of the "Imperial" roadhouse near Wapakoneta, Ohio. Effinger is alleged to have stated that all Federal men coming to Lima report to him and to have instructed the members of the Black Legion that if they know of any such officers being in town, they should report the matter to him at once.

On one occasion, two Ohio State prohibition enforcement officers were in Lima, and a member of the Legion reported to Effinger that they were Federal Agents.

On numerous occasions, Effinger has boasted that approximately 60 or 70 members of the Department of Justice are members of the Black Legion. He is said to have concealed a large yellow map depicting the location of all secret fortifications in the country and has stated that the map was obtained by him through the Department of Justice. Effinger has encouraged members of the Black Legion to join the National Guard, advising that when the time arrives to take over the armories and capture the rifles and ammunition the Black Legion members would overcome certain guardsmen assigned to them.

One former member has advised that he was ordered by General Effinger to "bash in the head" of a man who refused to attend the society's meetings.

Those individuals who have dropped out of the order have been approached on numerous occasions and warned that they should not talk. On occasions numerous carloads of men have collected around the homes of former members; however, no trouble is known to have resulted from these activities.

In General, Effinger is said to have ordered a former member of the Black Legion to destroy a moving picture film entitled "White Angel" at the time it was showing at the Sigma Theatre in Lima, Ohio on the grounds that the film upheld the Catholic faith.

In November, 1934 it was rumored that the Bullet Club of the Black Legion was going to blow up the old post office at Lima, Ohio, following which a Department of Justice Agent from Cincinnati, Ohio is alleged to have conducted an investigation. However, the files of this Bureau do not indicate such an investigation was made.

Following this rumor an investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, John B. Martin, of Sandusky, Ohio, ascertained that about 80% of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration employees was members of the Black Legion, and Guy Effinger, son of V. H. Effinger, was a Lieutenant Colonel of the organization and the timekeeper for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

V. H. Effinger was interviewed by a Special Agent and vigorously denied that he was associated with the Black Legion in any way, in addition each specific allegation attributed to him was specifically denied. He is an electrician by trade and did admit that he was a member of the Ku-Klux Klan, and freely expressed an opinion that the citizens of the country should take the law into their own hands to cope with the situation where local law enforcement officials have failed. In this connection the investigation disclosed that the Lima Police Department refused to do anything concerning the terrorist methods of the Black Legion in view of the fact that both the Chief of Police, Ward Taylor, and the head of the detective force were members of this society.

In addition to the above named individuals, who are said to be active participants in this society, the names of approximately 45 persons residing in Lima and vicinity were obtained. Among these are General Glean of Sidney, Ohio, an employee of the State Highway Department. This person is said to sign the death warrants for those who the Black Legion singles out for punishment.

Ike White, a former policeman from Detroit, Michigan, who was alleged to have lost his leg in a gun battle with the Purple Gang, appeared at target practice of the Black Legion held at Bowling Green, Ohio. White is supposed to be an active member of the Legion.

Colonel Lappe of Detroit, Michigan, employed at the City Hall, is alleged to be a source through which firearms are secured for the Black Legion. However, inquiry in Detroit has failed to reveal the identity of an individual of this name.

The Michigan State Police were aware that the Black Legion was holding regular meetings in the vicinity of Adrian, Michigan during the summer of 1935, and following a meeting held on August 19, 1935, they stopped a car containing three men and a search revealed a .38 calibre revolver, an automatic pistol and three black gowns with hoods, bearing a skull and cross bones. The three occupants of the car, giving the names of Ellsworth S. Shinabery, Andrew Martin, Jr. and Roy L. Hepner, were taken into custody. The men admitted carrying concealed weapons, but alleged that they did not own them; that they had been furnished by individuals whose identity they did not know, and that they were used for the purpose of the Black Legion meeting. Questioning of these persons did not result in obtaining any additional information relative to the organization or membership of the Black Legion. On August 26, 1935, the case against the above named persons was discharged by the Justice of the Peace at Adrian, Michigan on the grounds that the State Police exceeded their authority in searching the defendants' car.

In the investigation conducted no evidence of a violation of a Federal law was disclosed.

Examination of the records in the Identification Division of the Bureau disclosed no record of V. H. or Guy Effinger.

No arrests other than that referred to is indicated by the criminal records of Ellsworth S. Shinabery, Andrew Martin, Jr. and Roy L. Hepner.

The investigation conducted in this matter failed to disclose that any employees of the Department of Justice are members of this organization.

1451

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

May 29, 1936.

Mr. Hoover desires that all memoranda prepared for him be dated.

hwg

JUN 17 1936

RECORDED
61-7398-67X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATHAN TOLSON | TAMM | JOSEPH POUR | TRACY | FILE | TWO

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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14-

Edgar Hoover

Department of Justice

61-7398-68

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 3 1936 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

JUN 4 1936

Der Sier:

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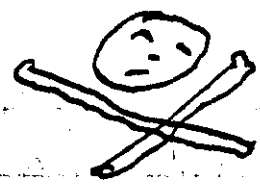
Misterilerek



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3 Sirs is Miss Engels of Sierra
Park wen I lived ther remarks
RECEIVED
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JUN 4 1938
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women tockt under my Windo at
nit and wen I ent Prosecuting Attorn
Burton I ittes to Investigate Rut
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out of the neibohood al tho ther
was the doth wice I had turnd over
to the Police department it seems
that Justice did not Prevail I and
not tel meter Charel or Andrew M.
Davis or Roy Tolsma or Rut Lesly
or a Testified Johana Bronemeier
or involved but teken Miss Engels
remarks about the Klan since riding
a bout in the Teiper I wonder
how mice and he belongs to
it her in L. A. and espes Sierra
Respectfuly Yours

Mary Vetterick
4616 Gratian St.

JUN 3 12 06 PM 1938
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
FILES SECTION

[illegible]

[illegible] June 27, 1936

[illegible]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Further reference is made to my memorandum dated February 28, 1936, in which you were furnished information relative to Sidney Edward Edmondson, journalist and accountant.

For your further information, I am transmitting herewith a circular issued by Edmondson entitled "Black Legion Over-Ruled" dated at New York, New York, May 28, 1936, and received by this Bureau June 4, 1936. It will be noted that there is contained herein a statement to the effect that Democratic Representative Dickstein of New York has called upon the Federal Government to investigate alleged allegations of anti-semitic and anti-religious activities, and allegedly appealing to Postmaster General Farley and myself for action in this matter.

There is also attached a circular issued by Edmondson entitled "The Jewish Minority Threatens!", dated at New York, April 18, 1936, and received by this Bureau on June 4, 1936, which sets forth that he is termed the patriotic party as an anti-American Yiddish political power challenge.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure (11)(66)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUN 1[illegible] 1936

TELEPHONE:
WHITEHALL 4-5232

ROBERT EDWARD EDMONDSON
ECONOMIST-PUBLICIST
(EST. 1903)

80 WASHINGTON ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Gleep
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Sent to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover by request.

Memo Attorney General 6/17/36

JUN 22 1936
RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-69
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 4 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM | TWOHY | FILE

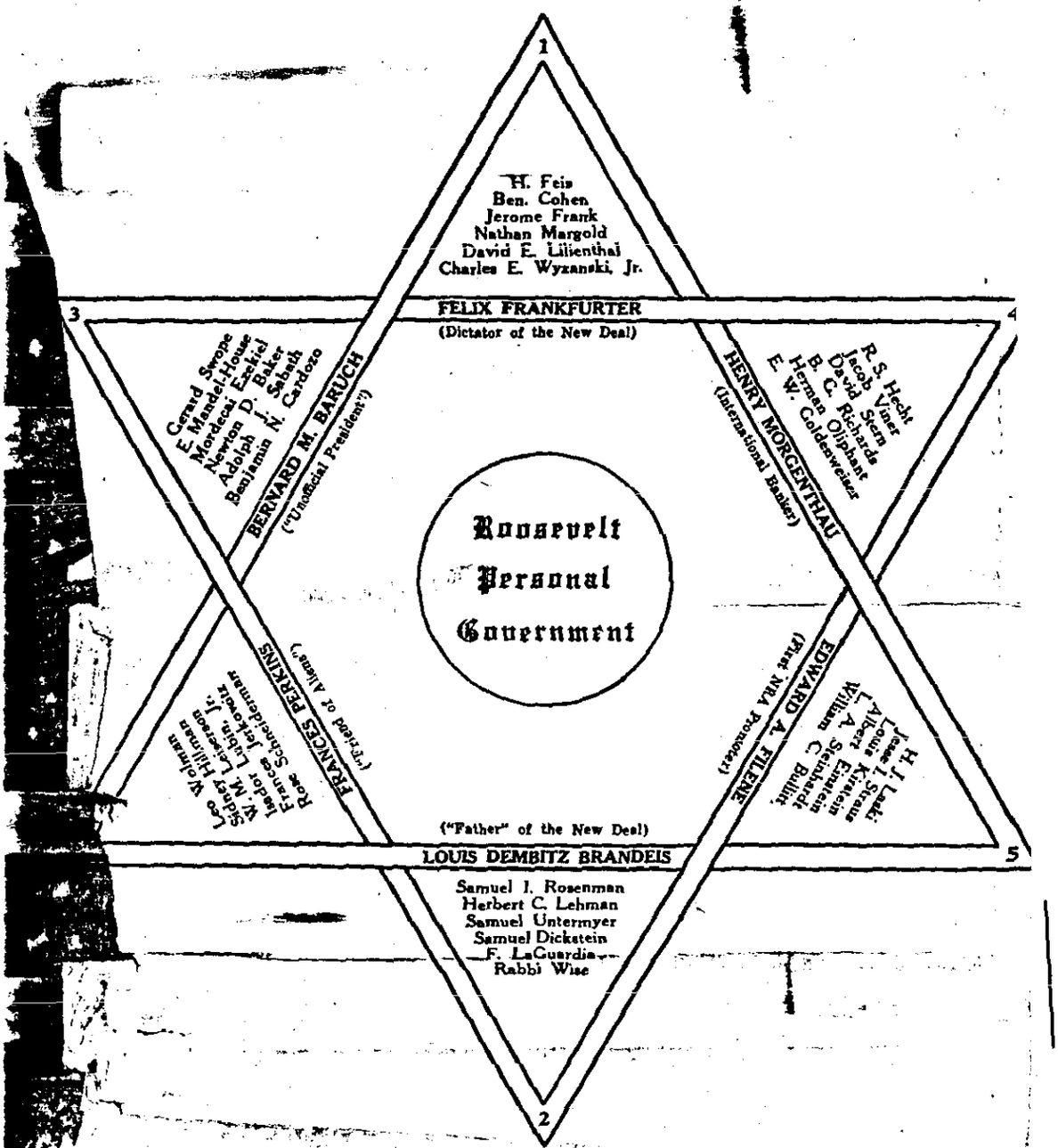
INFES SECTION
RECEIVED

# Roosevelt's Supreme Council

*A Non-Partisan Exposure of*

**AN "ALIEN-STAR" ORIENTAL REVOLUTIONARY-POWER IN CONTROL OF WASHINGTO**

The six-point star-picture below, showing **"America's Invisible Governors"** and their allies, gives onl of a long list of alien-minded New Dealer "advisors" behind Roosevelt, including unofficial and official "ap ments," elected "representatives," etc., **all owing allegiance** to the FRANKFURTER-BRANDEIS-BARUCH-I GENTHAU MONOPOLY. It is estimated that 18,000 of these "key" Internationalists are now **dictating Am policies,** directed by Professor Felix Frankfurter, called by General Hugh S. Johnson in the Saturday Evening of Oct. 26, 1935, "THE MOST INFLUENTIAL SINGLE INDIVIDUAL IN THE U. S."




**WHEN WILL AMERICA AGAIN BE RULED BY AMERICANS FOR AMERICANS?**

*The above "Seal of Solomon," symbol of Ownership—appearing on all synagogues—is now stamped on (1) U. ost Office dead-letter envelopes; (2) U. S. Army Helmets; (3) U. S. Navy Dept. seals; (4) reverse side of medals of Pre ent Franklin D. Roosevelt; and (5) on our NEW ONE-DOLLAR BILLS over the American Eagle—the six-point interla uble-triangle star camouflaged outline being formed of miniature 5-point stars. Note that the FRONT of the Great Seal w or shield is on the RIGHT and the REVERSE side with pyramid, is on the LEFT of the bill—which is Jewish, for Jews rea eir newspapers from RIGHT TO LEFT, oppositely to Gentile reading. The Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, J a Jew.*

The largest number of the above "SUPREME COUNCIL"—many of whom are foreign-born—owe the sitions to **internationalist-controlled Tammany.** These posts of **great importance** are filled, NOT by ELECTIO ROOSEVELT APPOINTMENTS. Unofficial advisors are **very dangerous to a free American Governme se they cannot be held publicly responsible** for their actions.

Descriptions above and on the other side of this sheet are from published records—numbers at the end

# NON-PARTISAN DESCRIPTIONS FROM PUBLISHED RECORDS

## GROUP NO. 1

FELIX FRANKFURTER of Mass., *foreign-born;* "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; listed in "*Red Network*" as a member of the Civil Liberties Union, legal advisor of Communists; known as Harvard University's "Karl Marx" (Communist) Professor; called Legal-Master-Mind of New Deal in Simon-Schuster 1934 book, "The New Dealers"; branded as *Bolshevist* by late President THEODORE Roosevelt *for defending Communist* Mooney, still in prison for San Francisco bomb-killing; placed 100 "key-men" in Roosevelt jobs. *"He has more influence than any other single person in the U. S."* says Gen. Johnson in the Saturday Evening Post of Oct. 26, 1935. Frankfurter has never been *elected* to any public office. He was nominated in 1932 for the Massachusetts Supreme Court, but defeated by 500,000 protests. He is said to be Roosevelt's choice for the next U. S. Supreme Court vacancy.

"Allies"—Herbert Feis of Mo., Asst. Secy. of State. Benj. Cohen of Mass., wrote Security and Utility Laws. Jerome Frank of Ill., General Counsel of RFC. Nathan Margold of N. Y., Interior Dept. Legal Advisor. David E. Lilienthal of Wis., Director of TVA. Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., of Mass., Labor Dept. Legal Advisor.

## GROUP NO. 2

LOUIS DEMBITZ BRANDEIS of Mass., "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; Justice of U. S. Supreme Court; *"Father" of Communistic New Deal. He is named in "Red Network" as supporter of Communistic* Commonwealth College of Arkansas. Highly praised by Albert Einstein, expelled from Germany as a *Communist.* The Chicago Tribune of Sept. 22, 1934, printed this statement by Gen. Hugh S. Johnson: "During the whole of this intense experience (building up the *illegal* NRA) *I have been in constant touch with Justice Brandeis.*" The N. Y. Times of Jan. 28, 1934, said: "The underlying philosophy of the New Deal is the philosophy of Justice Brandeis."

"Allies"—H. C. Lehman, Governor of N. Y., International Banker. Samuel I. Rosenman, Judge of New York State Supreme Court, whom Roosevelt called his "Right Arm." Lawyer Samuel Untermyer of N. Y., "Unofficial Presidential Public Ownership Advisor," listed in "Red Network" as endorsing the anti-patriotic article, "Professional Patriots," published in the Communist paper, "The Daily Worker." Samuel Dickstein, N. Y. Congressman, who radioed on March 18, 1934: "We Americans must change our laws so they (GERMAN COMMUNISTIC JEWS) can come here at once." N. Y. Mayor F. LaGuardia, "Unofficial Presidential Advisor" listed in "Red Network" as running for Congress on 1924 Socialist Ticket. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, foreign-born, of N. Y. City, listed in "Red Network" as connected with the Civil Liberties Union, legal advisor to Communists.

## GROUP NO. 3

BERNARD M. BARUCH of N. Y., called "Unofficial President" by *Rabbi Gross'* Brooklyn Jewish Examiner; *Wall Street speculator and associate of International Bankers;* Wilson-Roosevelt Economic Advisor; admitted Congress Committee: *"I probably had more power than any other man during the World War."* He called Nati pride (patriotism) *"A lot of nonsense"* (see Chicago Tribune, Sept. 25). Ford's "Dearborn Independent" of 25, 1925, said: "The Baruch interest, with others, has planned the Communistic State. It will not be nec to stage a revolution. Upon commencement of war, the U. S. goes under Communism in one day."

"Allies"—Gerard Swope of N. Y., Roosevelt "Industrial Advisor." Col. E. Mandel-House of Mass., W Roosevelt International Political Advisor, helped to form The League of Nations. Mordecai Ezekiel of N. Y., Asst. of Agriculture, one of AAA Law authors. Newton D. Baker of Ohio, "Unofficial Presidential Advisor," listed in Network" as "Communist-recommended author"—who urges U. S. to join League of Nations. Adolph J. Sabath, Congressman, Roosevelt "Special Investigator." N. Y. U. S. Supreme Court Justice Cardozo, reported in Chicago of April 26, 1934, as having, with Brandeis, "led the Supreme Court from conservatism."

## GROUP NO. 4

HENRY MORGENTHAU, SR., of N. Y., *foreign-born;* "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; *related national Bankers Seligman and Lehman.* His son is Secretary of the U. S. Treasury and *Dictator of the lion Dollar "Stabilization Fund."* Sigmund Solomon "superintends" for him $5,000,000,000 gold bars in Assay Office.

"Allies"—R. S. Hecht of La., foreign-born, ex-President of American Bankers' Assn.; "Official Presidential F Advisor." Jacob Viner of N. Y., Tax Expert of U. S. Treasury. David Stern of N. Y. and Pa., Member of Federal Re Board of Philadelphia and Publisher N. Y. Post; "Unofficial Presidential Advisor." B. G. Richards of N. Y., foreign-born Assistant to National Emergency Council. Herman Oliphant of N. Y., General Counsel to Secretary of Treasury. E. W. Goldenweiser of N. Y., Russian-born; Federal Reserve Director.

## GROUP NO. 5

EDWARD A. FILENE of Mass., "Unofficial Presidential Advisor; listed in *"Red Network"* as member of American-Russian Chamber of Commerce. His "20th Century Fund" financed NRA's importation from Europe. Filene was in Moscow during the last *Communistic International Congress.*

"Allies"—Louis Kirstein of Mass., National Advisory Board member. Jesse I. Straus of N. Y., "Official Presidential Advisor"; promoted Roosevelt Presidential campaign; now Ambassador to France. H. J. Laski, Director of Fabian Socialist Society of England; "Unofficial Foreign Advisor." L. A. Steinhardt, Minister to Sweden. Albert Einstein, expelled from Germany as Communist; listed in "Red Network" as conferring with Roosevelt. W. C. Bullitt, "Official Soviet Advisor"; Ambassador to Russia; listed in "Red Network."

## GROUP NO. 6

FRANCES "PERKINS" of N. Y., Secy of Labor.—As Americans are entitled to know public servants' background; noting conflicting data supplied various "Who's Who"; having repeatedly heard "Russian Jewess origin-reports" Robert Edward Edmondson wrote Secy. Perkins personally as follows on Jan. 29, 1936: "Will you tell me for publication when and where you were born; names, nationality and religion of your parents?" Over two months later Mrs. Perkins replied as follows on April 1, 1936, without proof of assertions: "I was born in Boston, April 10, 1882, daughter of Fredk. W. and Susan Perkins. My parents were both native-born citizens of English and Scotch descent. They and their forebears were Protestant Christians. My father's name was never Lazanski; he was born and died Fredk. Perkins. I was not known as Rachel Lazanski; I was known as Frances Perkins, and was married in Grace Church N. Y. City, Sept. 26, 1913, to Paul Caldwell Wilson, also of American parentage of English and Scotch descent." On April 5 in the N. Y. Herald Tribune denouncing the "utter un-Americanism of a racial whispering campaign," she added: "If I were Jewish, I WOULD BE PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT." In this connection, does her pro-"all-Jewish staff" as below suggest an "utterly un-American" RACIAL PREJUDICE in favor of a minority? (On April 7, 1936, the writer received the following reply to inquiry: "There is no record at the Boston Birth Registry of the birth of a Frances Perkins on April 10, 1882, or during the year specified.")

"Allies"—Prof. Leo Wolman of N. Y., Labor Strike Board Chairman; listed in "Red Network" as director of Garland Fund (Communistic). Sidney Hillman, foreign-born, of N. Y.; Labor Advisory Board member; President of "Red" Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union; listed in "Red Network" as Garland Fund director. W. M. Leiserson, Russian-born: Labor Board Secretary; listed in "Red Network" as member of Socialist Berger Foundation. Isidor Lubin, Jr., of N. Y., Labor Delegate to League of Nations. Frances Jurkowitz of N. Y., Asst. to Secy of Labor; Rose Schneiderman of N. Y., Russian-born Labor Dept. Asst.; in "Red Network" as ACLU member.

### Roosevelt Congratulates COMMUNISTS on 18th Soviet Anniversary

As reported in the N. Y. Times on Nov. 8, 1935, President Roosevelt cabled Soviet President Kalinin at Moscow on Nov. 7 on "the 18th anniversary of the Socialist (Communist) revolution in Russia," saying: "I am happy to extend sincere felicitations on THIS MEMORABLE ANNIVERSARY with my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness." (Thirty Million Christian Russians have been killed and starved to death by Soviet.)

### Look at This Record, Patriots of America, AND WAKE UP!

THEN: "The Revolutionary Council which took over Russia in 1918 was composed of 565 members, of whom 469 WERE JEWS."—From the Overman Report to Congress.

NOW: "The Moscow Central Committee of the Communist Party (which rules Russia) has 59 members, of whom 56 ARE JEWS. The remaining three, Stalin, Lobow and Ossinsky, ARE MARRIED TO JEWS."—From the February (1936) issue of "The Defender of the Faith," a religious magazine of Wichita, Kansas.

New York, Nov. 15, 1935 (4-7-'36)

Robert Edward Edmondson

(PUBLICIST-ECONOMIST)

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(OVER

*Save America from the Jew-Controlled Communistic "New Deal"!*

# The Jewish Minority Threatens!

**WE, the Majority, Are Going to Demonstrate Our Control, Is the Patriotic Reply to an Anti-American Yiddish Political-Power Challenge: What Are YOU Going to DO About It?"**

## THE ARROGANT DEFI

*"The Jews of America, because of their NUMBERS, INTEREST and ABILITY, constitute A GREAT POLITICAL FORCE. They have not usurped this power; IT BELONGS TO THEM AS OF RIGHT! They are going to exercise it AS THEY SEE FIT! What are YOU going to DO about it?"—From an editorial of April 9, 1936, in the great Yiddish Daily, "THE DAY," of New York City.*

The Jews of America "number" about 4,228,000, says their official estimate, presumably based, as in Biblical times, upon MALES ALONE—which would give a total U. S. Jewish population of over 8,500,000, or **about a 7% minority.** Based on "Passover Bread" requirements, Henry Ford's publication estimated that the Jews in America in 1920 numbered about 6,000,000—with 3,000,000 more seeking entrance.

Jewish "interest" may be debatable, but as Gentiles presumably also have the right to estimate, they find, by overwhelming evidence, that "the terrible power of the purse (Zionist Leader Herzl's boastful description), **in combination with Jewish-energized revolutionary communism, has unfairly given Jewry a monopoly-control** of American publicity, political and social conditions.

Jewish "ability," secretly exercising gold-cornered despotic power, has, in the minds of patriots, **subverted the inalienable control-rights of the democratic majority in favor of an alien-minded minority admittedly antagonistic to the fundamental American Philosophy of majority government of, by and for the whole people.**

Now, this small subversive minority arrogantly and defiantly claims that such monopoly-power **"belongs to them AS OF RIGHT"**—presumably the "chosen people" delusion-right; and **"They are going to exercise it as THEY SEE FIT"—whether the American majority likes it or not.**

**It is just as simple as that!**

What are WE going to do about it?

THIS is the answer of the Great Middle-Class American Majority to the 7% Jewish Minority:

The Republic of the United States of America was founded upon "A Declaration of Independence" *conceived*, not by a Jewish but by a **Christian Majority** that, through **supreme sacrifice**, created the greatest freedom Constitution "ever struck off by the hand and brain of man," and with it established a nation that rose from poverty to enjoy prosperity and happiness—**until the advent of the revolutionary Jewish Invasion.**

WE ARE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTROL of the Destinies of the America bequeathed to us by our great Christian Forefathers.

In a rennaisance of the "Spirit of '76," now rising to the heights, fighting under our historic crusading-cry "Liberty or Death!" WE are going to RESTITUTIONALLY RECAPTURE what has been treacherously and predatorily seized through secret subversion of our **unsuspecting** good-will, tolerance and hospitality—PEACEFULLY, if we CAN, but MILITANTLY, if we MUST!

*"Our brains have met theirs in the Cradle of the White Race. We will meet them in the Outposts of Civilization."*

New York, April 15, 1936

Robert Edward Edmondson

(PUBLICIST-ECONOMIST)

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But Catholicism in Europe is apparently learning that it has been tricked and is becoming aware of the reality of the menace. Read this public confirmation: **"The Jewish Spirit threatens to corrode our economic and social life,"** declared the Federal Union of Catholic Youth in Vienna, Austria, on April 3, 1936, according to an Associated Press cable. "Polish Jewry is an avowed enemy of the Catholic religion; **Jews are behind the bolshevik and socialist forces now attacking our church."** That was in a cable recently published by the Chicago Tribune, according to the James True Weekly Industrial Report of Feb. 29, 1936. The February (1936) Catholic Gazette of London, under a heading, "The Jewish Peril and the Catholic Church," printed a sensational article detailing proceedings at a secret Jewish Society meeting in Paris, at which a protocolic **program of attack** on the Catholic Church was outlined. There was circulated recently in Europe this extract from the "Civilta Cattolica," a Vatican publication: **"The Jewish Peril menaces the whole world,** in particular the Christian nations." The Pope issued a proclamation May 11, 1936, against "The common enemy of Communism, AN IMMENSE PERIL which menaces civilization."

## MASONRY PREPARING A PURGE?

Organized churches of other creeds have apparently been penetrated and "Ju-duped" throughout the world. Note this from the Chicago Christian Century, undenominational Protestant publication of Chicago, under dates of April 29 and May 13, 1936: **"Jewry is a mutual benefit propagandist organization.** A Judaism which talks of its **uniqueness** cannot escape the suspicion that **it is hoarding treasures for a selfish purpose.** The Jew will never command the respect of non-Jewish culture so long as he huddles by himself. Any **unassimilated element** of our population is bound to have trouble, BECAUSE IT IS BOUND TO MAKE TROUBLE."

The **Jewish-dominated** Grand Orient Secret Society of Europe **subverted** Continental Freemasonry, according to documentary evidence arriving in this country from abroad. **Both Hitler and Mussolini exposed it.** The former prohibited Masonic lodges in Germany coincident with his expulsion of Communist Jews. Mussolini did the same thing when he banned Bolshevism, and only recently he arrested members of his own party for reviving Masonry in Rome. Rioters last year attacked Masonic lodges in France.

Since a free press no longer exists in the United States, the time has come for Gentile Americans **to look for the subversive Jew behind the propaganda ballyhoo about "fearsome Black Legions."**

New York, May 28, 1936

Robert Edward Edmondson

(PUBLICIST-ECONOMIST)

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(OVER)

# "Black Legion" a Jew-Bogey?

**Dickstein's Anti-Semitic "Terrorist" Cry May Supply the Key to Unlock the Door of an Oriental "Frame Up," Now That Suspicious Protestant and Catholic Church Officials Are Sensing "The Jewish Peril."**

## EDMONDSON DARES RUSSIAN-JEW CONGRESSMAN-INVESTIGATOR TO LET HIM PUBLICLY TESTIFY AS TO THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE JEWISH ANTI-AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THAT IS COMMUNISTICALLY DESTROYING AMERICA

Informing Robert Edward Edmondson that New York Representative Samuel Dickstein had introduced a bill in Congress to investigate the "anti-Semitic activities" of the Edmondson Economic Service pro-American Crusade, in connection with the so-called "Black Legion" developments in Michigan, the Associated Press, asking for "comment on Dickstein," requested a statement May 27, 1936—which was supplied in writing as below; **and which of course was not reproduced in the newspapers, thereby again proving the Edmondson thesis of Jew-control.**

"Why comment on Dickstein?" asked Edmondson. This alien-minded un-American-actioned, international foreign-born Jew from Russia, who assumes **to teach patriotism** to native citizens who have absorbed it for generations, **would not be in his present position were Congressional district-representation based on citizenship instead of alien population.**

Dickstein is the "patriot" who, typically putting Jewism before Americanism, broadcast by radio on March 18, 1934, from Chicago: "We Americans must change our laws to make it possible for them to come here at once"—**referring to the 500,000 Jewish Communists that Germany is expelling for treason, and for which action International Jewry is boycotting that nation, at great trade loss to America.**

I DARE DICKSTEIN TO LET ME TESTIFY BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE AS TO THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, ABOUT THE JEWISH ANTI-AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THAT IS COMMUNISTICALLY DESTROYING THE REPUBLIC, AND GUARANTEEING A PUBLIC BROADCAST THEREOF THROUGH THE JEW-CONTROLLED METROPOLITAN PRESS.

For the thousandth time, I repeat: I am not opposed to Jews as individuals or as to their religion or race; but I am unalterably against what the Jewish System is DOING, by financing Communistic Civil War, TO ENSLAVE THE UNITED STATES AS IT DID RUSSIA AND FRANCE.

Investigations of the Edmondson Agency during the past two years by the Department of Justice, Farley's Post Office, and Dickstein's "Nazi" Committee, invariably developed the fact that **I have been merely exercising my constitutional rights of free press and free speech**—under handicap, for my mail has been constantly tampered with, presumably by Jewish elements, since I have no other enemies.

If, as alleged, there is in existence a six-million "vigilante anti-Semitic semi-military organization" of Americans, **the Jewish exodus rush from the United States would make the departure from Egypt look like a one-horse parade.** I have no knowledge of such a body.

### Setting Up a "Straw Man" to Shoot At

Is the ballyhooed "Black Legion" of Michigan **a Jew-created BOGEY,** camouflage-designed to **divert attention** from Communistic subversions?

Is it an "extravaganza" **set up as a target** for the "kept men of the press" to shoot at with explosive propaganda bullets?

Is Oriental duplicity active in it **to blind Gentile Americans to hidden moves toward a "Red" Dictatorship,** since the courts are progressively cracking down on New Deal plans?

Are Ju-dupes and Ju-tools being manipulated by "The Hidden Hand" that wrecked Russia?

These questions are becoming prominent in well-informed patriotic circles. Is there evidence to justify them? Consider the following:

The Hearst Jew key-posted publications are in the **forefront** of the "sensational exposures." The New York Times and other Jewish-owned newspapers are **"displaying"** the "news." **They are "making the most" of startling accusations**—WHICH REMAIN TO BE PROVED. How will the courts handle "framed confessions"?

Does the key lie in this suggestive Washington dispatch in the N. Y. American of May 26, 1936:

"Moved by the terrorist plots of the murderous 'Black Legion' of Michigan, Democratic Representative Dickstein of New York (Russian-born Jew), tonight called on the Federal Government to investigate immediately all nation-wide ANTI-SEMITIC and anti-religious activities. Dickstein appealed to J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the G-Men, and to Postmaster General Farley for action. Declaring various secret bands of terrorists are seeking to 'destroy' JEWS AND CATHOLICS in this country, Dickstein, in a statement, said that if Federal Departments were unable to cope with the situation, Congress would be asked to reopen hearings before the House Committee on un-American activities. Dickstein sent Hoover 30 examples of propaganda which he charged were designed to **'foment racial and religious prejudices.'** At the same time Democratic Representative Kramer of California revealed that he had received numerous complaints of persons using the mails in California **to 'stir up hatred' against Jews."**

### CHRISTIAN CHURCHES SENSING SUBVERSION

Note that the Jews **constantly associate Catholics** with them in all persecution-publicity, just as they do the Semite race, which also includes other peoples beside Jews. This is prominent in the Rabbi Wise American Jewish Boycott Against Germany for expelling Jewish Communists, with ballyhoo propaganda continually proclaiming persecution of Catholics as well as Jews. The truth is that most persecuted "Catholics" were **"converted"** Jews. Thousands of Jews "converted themselves" for safety in Spain and France during the historic expulsion from those countries—and reverted to type afterward.

(OVER)

61-7348-61

Sec 62-33719

EFE:AF
61-7398-90

June 11, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. Claiborne Collier,
Marland, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 30, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion that the Black Legion is merely a branch of the Ku Klux Klan, which latter organization is nothing more than a political group composed primarily of Masons.

The contents of your communication have been noted and I appreciate your courtesy in referring same to my attention. However, in view of the fact that the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, no action can be taken by the Bureau relative to this organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Oklahoma City

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 12 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Day 30 — 3E 130

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 4 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Washington D.C.

Have been reading about the Black Legion activities. They Organization is nothing but the Branch of the Ku Klux Klan. I belonged some 10 years ago belong to the KKK but dropped it when I found out just what it was. It was a political organization to further the interest of those that would teach you to be loyal unto Devoted to disorder his allegiance first unto Judge when talking of the Public the Klan Klan was mostly Made up of Masons which Organization DC Condemn as being Enemy No 1 to American People. The Masons seem to be Proud of the fact that a Mason was sent to the Penitentiary which does not when a Mason commits the Masons will all assist Rope and lay false witness they escape the Penitentiary. The Man that Deported and Killed some 12 or 15 Osage Indians N.W. some yrs

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 15 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 4 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
61-7398-70
FILED

[illegible] Osage County [illegible]
affiliations the Hominy [illegible]
that was before a United States Court at
Oklahoma City and denied the Right of
a Quasan to set on the jury as the
Sandstock Hole was a [illegible] of any
Money a Unknown [illegible] together and say [illegible] they send one
to the Penitentiary also of Quasan carries
a Murder by false witness [illegible] Malcasane
will clear them on 1925 [illegible] a Bro
that [illegible] 90 [illegible] the Mason's took
through the courts [illegible] affairs
and [illegible] all the Hard. The Prolate
[illegible] Judge [illegible] Mason's on Guardians
[illegible] the Mason was [illegible]
Enemy [illegible] and the Human Government
[illegible] them do away with the Organization
[illegible] are all Born Equal [illegible] through
[illegible] Organization are [illegible]
Enjoy certain Privileges that as denied
the others. [illegible] a Mason committs a crime
by stealing from a City or County or state

of the Proceedings as a Jurisdiction
Since the Masons will never Exposed
is Shameful and Disgraceful and
wrong to tell you I am over 75 yrs
old and have Observed all these
things for years it is not Hearsay

Masonary first K K K next and
then the Black Legion all
the same and the same with same
treasurer of course

Res
Clarence Collier
Marland Okla

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Dear Sir

I'll
Black Leagon in St Clair
County Ill. Their are Black
Martins. They Place the
Farmers you will find
well meaning and in
with some of the Farmers
They Place Bills from
the Belleville office
in in fairness of the
Farmers against a fraud of the
Gang

St Clair County

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 5 1936

61-7398-71

FBI
JUN 4 1936
RECEIVED

SAINT LOUIS, MO.
JUN 2
6-PM
1936

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BO
ASK YOUR

Federal Bureau Investigation
Edward Hoover

Washington

## BLASTED SAFE FOUND IN POND

**Discovered Near East Carondelet; No Owner's Name on It.**

Deputy Sheriffs of St. Clair County recovered an empty three-foot safe, which had been blown open, from a pond near East Carondelet.

Holes had been drilled through the door. The safe was new and bore no owner's name. The Sheriff's office at Belleville has no record of a safe recently stolen. It was discovered by Charles Syroff, a farmer, who said it was not in the pond last Thursday, when he was there before.

## NIGHT RAID ON FARM HOME

**Tenant Tells of Threat of Death by Louisiana Neighbors.**

By the Associated Press.

SHREVEPORT, La., May 30.—Buck Townsend told the Sheriff's office today, that he, his son William and a friend, R. W. Thorp, were abducted from his tenant farm home near Minden, La., at night by a band of men who beat Thorp with a pistol. He said they were threatened with death if they did not move from the neighborhood. Deputies quoted Townsend as saying he recognized in the band neighbors who had "persecuted" him since he rented the farm for this year's crop. He said a neighbor wanted the farm he held.

Townsend's wife and daughter, Mrs. E. M. Musgrove, and Julia Townsend were in the house when the raiders entered. In the same community several years ago "Captain" Billy Stark, an aged recluse, was bound, tortured with fire and knives and left to die.

61-7398-71

BUREAU

June 11, 1936

61-7398-72

RECORDED

[redacted]
119 East 5th Avenue,
Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 3, 1936, together with the pamphlet relative to the "Pennsylvania Bucktails", an organization which was formerly the "National Youth Movement", requesting that a thorough investigation be instituted by this Bureau with reference to the activities of the Black Legion and the Workers' Alliance.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the Black Legion or the Workers' Alliance to which you refer in your communication are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation relative thereto.

Your courtesy, however, in referring this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Pittsburgh

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 12 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# PENNA. BUCKTAILS

**J. L. MEGAHAN, Pres.**

*Formerly National Youth Movement*

"Will endeavor, by radio, to bring a comprehensive view, to the people of affairs in public life, and will strive to have the W.P.A. program established as a permanent part of Government, entirely free of political influence."

June. 3-1936.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

Dear Sir:-

In the event that your dept. will be calle to investigate the activities of the "Black Legion, I am sending this for your informa

During Mar. 1934 while serving in the capacity of President of the National Youth Movement, we began to hear rumors of it, and at which time I notified Miss Perkins to that effect, and received a personally answe back from her.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-

JUN 15 1936

In Oct 28-29-1934, the National Unemployed Councils in out state, formulated plan to March to Harrisburg on these dates for a mass demonstration, again rumors coming to me were to the effect, violence would be attempted by a certain group in this organization, In the mean time we had members of our organizatio join this N.U.C. at Pittsburg to the end we were able to stop the march, This endeav was well as letters calling march were all

JUN 4 1936

TAMM

# PENNA. BUCKTAILS

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them to your Dept.

We send enough members of the National Youth Movement into the N. U. C. to the end I was elected State President in November: getting busy immediately we were successfu in having the several clubs turn back Herbert Benjamin of New York Headquartus, the N. U. C. charter, and in its place we reorga the association under the title of Unemployed Brotherhood of Pennsylvania, and changed the Communistic tendency of the Unemployed to a American organization, again this information was sent. Col. Howe.

In Jan. 1935 I was approached by some ~~men on~~ the idea of our organization join ups with a organization such as the Black Legion, against Jew. Negro and Catholic, I refused, and send one of the applications to Col. Howe. and endeavor was then made to have me attend a meeting to be held aroun

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During March, 1935, rumors became very strong concerning and outbreak in Pennsylvania, the Lu Lu Temple of Philadelphia cancelled a meeting of a group on account of Un American activities in March, I immediately got in touch with Atty Geil Margotti, who caused an investigation of the affair to be made by the State Police, outbreaks were to occur in Pittsburg Wilke-Barre - Philadelphia, Wm. A. Miller, of the State Police, spend a day with me, and I turn over to him, evidence of these activities, but at that time I did not go in to details concerning these rumors, with Mr Miller, due to the fact, they seemed so ~~childish~~,

I paid no more attention to this because I was informed, that the State Police, gathered material, in regards to organizers, and offe of organization, their plans, and activities

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Again in the late summer of '35 I was approac in regards to organize. et service men under a plan, whereby it would be a ened organization, I'm

During June 1935, a terrific attempt was mad to oust me out of the Unemployed organization, e up with the Altoona branch, being outlawed for attempting such,

The National Youth Movement, disbanded whe the Government sponsored the National Youth Addministration, while in the meantime I resig officership in the Unemployed Brotherhood, hai served in official capacity in several organiza since 1930, I wanted to rest.

About 3 month ago, a few of us started to organized the above organization, and our activit consist of mailing enclosed pamphlet, and two radio broad casts, at which time we notified the Dept of Labor at Washington, and received permission to organized from our State Commonwe but as yet have put on no drive for members.

# PENNA. BUCKTAILS

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*Formerly National Youth Movement*

"Will endeavor, by radio, to bring a comprehensive view, to the people of affairs in public life, and will strive to have the W.P.A. program established as a permanent part of Government, entirely free of political influence."

June. 3-1936.

I really believe the Black Legion, and also the Workers Alliance, which is the old National Unemployed Councils of U. S. should be investigated, for I never could understand why our government allow such activities to go un-noticed and un-hindered in our country.

There is a under current working amongst the Unemployed, that bodes no good, I am not familiar with it, or could not find the source, but I am conscious of it.

Sincerely Yours.

J. L. Megahan

119-E-5-Ave

Altoona, Pa.

# NNA. BUC LS

*Affiliated with the American Bucktails*

J. L. MEGAHAN, National Chairman

ATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

Dear Friend,

Any one will readily admit, that, due to a multitude of organizations, advocating ideas, toward the solution of the Unemployed situation, the condition has not improved, but is rather more confusing, thereby, causing discord among the unemployed, and those endeavoring to solve the problem.

This has caused, Strikes, Mass Demonstrations, Hunger Marches, and other Up-Risings, Proven a fertile field, for the Paid Agitator to sew seeds of discontentment, and Un-American principles, among the Unemployed, and an opportunity for the politicians, so minded, to play politics, with human misery and has availed little toward a solution.

America, will in the near future, either rise or fall, thru politics. and for that reason, this organization has confined, itself entirely, to the task of taking the relief problem, out of politics. By having either, of the political parties, at their respective convention, adopt our object, as a plank in their party platform or failing in this, to have Congress en-act a bill, which will establish a permanent public works program, administered as a civil service commission.

We believe this program should pay a fair wage, yet not high enough, that it will destroy the initiative of the recipient, that they will not return to, or search for private employment, when the opportunity presents itself.

It should allow those losing private employment, to be placed immediately on it, and along unemployed, assure them work on worth while projects, until such a time that private employment, would need them, and that all persons be placed on it according to their qualifications.

Such a program would assure, the professional and business persons, of a mass purchasing power at all times, and would do away entirely with the demoralizing relief affair, which disrupts business, overloads the taxpayer, causes youth to become stagnant, the recipient misery and heartaches, and the loss of self respect.

This organization has been approved by the State of Pennsylvania as a non-profit association, and for that reason no officers are paid, no dues collected, and if you are interested in our object, form a club, raise $4.00 by contributions, mail same to J. L. Megahan, 119 E. Fifth Avenue, Altoona, Pa., who will mail you 750 of these letters for distribution thru out your state and community for it is in that way we hope to raise public interest. Your officers names, State, and locality, will be included on your letters, or mail this to a friend in other locality.

61-7398-72

KFE:AF
61-7398-73

June 11, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 30, 1936, furnishing information relative to one J. White who advised you that he was assaulted by a group of men wearing black robes, who you believe might have been members of the Black Legion, and requesting that such investigative action be taken relative to this matter as this Bureau deems advisable.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or other similar organizations are in violation of any of these Federal laws, this Bureau is without authority to take any action relative thereto. This matter is one of purely local nature and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the state of Oregon.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 12 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Portland

May 30 1936 116

[redacted]

Portland, Ore.

RECORDED & INDEXED

6-11-36 ack, cc Portland

61-7398-113

Dear Mr. Hoover

With all the talk of the "Black Legion" spreading JUN 4 1936 the country I thought you might like to investigate an incident here in Portland.

About three years ago when I was [redacted] for the Butterick Magazine Co. here, a young fellow applied for a job as a salesman. He told me a strange story of getting into trouble with his work fellows. One night he was stopped on the street, taken out on a country road and beaten up. He

JUN 15 1936

RJ

said the assailents were
black robes with a white
skull and cross-bones on
it. He didn't go back to
work as he was warned
he would die if he did.

As near as I can remem-
ber this fellow's name was
White. I am fairly certain
his initial was J. I remem-
ber that because it was the
same as my own. He lived
out in the direction of Foster
Road because he took the
Mt. Tabor car home at
night.

Naturally you might not
want to investigate this as

it is very indefinite. If this so-called "menace" is national, however it will be within your jurisdition, and I have often said that if every citizen sent in even all the slight details he or she knew about a certain case, you fellows would have a much easier job.

Sincerely yours

[redacted]

P.S. This White only stayed two days, couldn't sell any magazines, so quit.

J.R.P.

Dear Sir.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7398-74

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Perk and

I have been informed from days agone I rod you that I had information of Blak Klan organization in Sierra Perk and further that I am given you this information wice may or my not prove to you that ther is suce organization ther in 1926 ther Muyed a Negro in to the neibaforhood and dat Nith som of ouer neibors joind and Deert the Negro's out of the Flom den liter ther was a Spanish family wice thy also drove out is I am a Catolik and a Rumenia'n born I was hounded and harest and be cause I insisted on my Reits I was arested for Crisi and forst to move the Not wice I send a copy to you was given to Police Detection Ady of the first Sprit Police wice Investigated and wice told me that it was el reit to Mov bak to Sierra Park but after I did move bak it sins I had no Police Protection wat ever beside that not and then wice thy Ritten on my Curbing ther was a falong not bowed under my Door wic I copy on other side

Mary Vitovich

Mrs Mathews

Nice is [illegible] cliping out [illegible] of [illegible] News Tiper and Tested on a other Tiper

~~I am~~ justified in Killing to preserve the sanctity of the family

al so thy cald my Son a Son of a Bice and told me I was not the legal wif of Mr Ernest Vetter is I'm not an Immoral woman as have ever had any afer wit other ~~all~~ ~~ons~~ I and not understan way Tiper Shud tak that way and way my husban Ignorad sed Insult to my Person so my betel has bin agenst dos that frei to slander me with out helpe of my husban or Mony to Investiged with the clear result of bin arested for Creis thy Put a faged Check in to ~~our~~ Hand tinking we wond cashe it wen that did ~~not~~ work ther wer other outrages wice drove me to ast Biron Tuttier helpe for an Investigation with the result of bin arested ~~for~~

Troper Before I m left to find
out hu is behind and I spoke
to some acquintances fey the reim
of Gover and told den that I
kil tem if they stil my Property
there was no direkt tret but
if one is justified in Suting
a fire that Brik in your
hom one out to be justified
in warning a fire off fleing
to rob In of of ones hom
Mr Charl Peris told me I
was not maried to Mr Vetterick
al so that if he had not discary
Mr Vetterick he him self would
had supert way And Carl Peris
be afreid of suce occurence
of cors But Gerly wouldn have
the Torr to Influence suce
action But a klan of som
cind would Tolma of The Califor
Belt clan men I went for il
him at his residence I herd
a woman creing sterin
told you to Stope it She
now has begend but
to this day it is not Stopt
for the Infin of Carl and

ok open niten on over front ser wast em
John the Stope of Justice is in the
Mr. Hoover is in the

wers I have na an Idea
wer the first not Dim from
and weil I dont Remember the
nem I Fink the conspirators
is ~~Dem~~ describen dem and som
of Hos wice I suspect of
bing member of the Misterylen
Klan Fer is a Carpenter wice Build
Engels Haus he lives on
Sensport ~~avenu~~ he dim to
Cort Circel wer we lived and
Brot a Plan for us to aprovel
of a Record haus to be build
in Riva Park and if I remem
reit falowing that we got the first
warning S dem Mrs Cein Fikt
my Boy Blak and blu in Sh cos
a Thol letter she be cein a good
frind of us but I have an Idea
that ther is som of dos conekte
with the Police Department
Flene fild mason of the organis.
and weter Bugeir belonged its
~~hard~~ to say the Engel Jases was
conekted in the Negros ~~communel~~
weter he is one of the Member
I dont non of cors wen they
houndet me Rut Gesly ~~read~~
the Remark that Slil ~~owen~~ my

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATION DEPT
DIV. 2
JUN 5 1936 AM

OFFICIAL

HSC:MOB May 28, 1936.

Honorable Duncan C. McCrea,
Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County,
Detroit, Michigan.

AS OF COURSE YOU ARE AWARE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS IS LIMITED TO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL STATUTES STOP IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT A FEDERAL OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT WASHINGTON

HOMER CUMMINGS ATTORNEY GENERAL

61-7398-75

HENRY SUYDAM
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Department of Justice
## Washington

May 28, 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Attorney General has requested me to transmit the copy of the enclosed telegram.

Henry Suydam

Henry Suydam,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7394-75
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 2 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM TWC FILE

# Adelaide Wyckoff Rites In Brooklyn Tomorrow

102

Funeral services for Miss Adelaide E. Wyckoff, a member of the faculty of Packer Collegiate Institute for 45 years, will be held at the Fairchild Chapel, 86 Lefferts pl., Brooklyn, tomorrow at 2:30 p. m.

Miss Wyckoff, who died Thursday at St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, resided at 58 Hanson pl., Brooklyn, where she was born 80 years ago. She was graduated from Packer in 1874 and taught in Brooklyn public schools before joining Packer faculty in 1879. She retired in 1924.

Miss Wyckoff, who had been prefect of the senior class at Packer, was an active member of the Packer Associate Alumnae. For many years she was a member of the Hanson Place Baptist Church.

She is survived by a brother, Spencer C. Wyckoff, and a sister, Miss Ella Wyckoff.

# M[illegible] Son, 4 [illegible]ie in Fire; 3 Other Childr[illegible] Saved

103

## Guest Drops Three to Safety in Watertown Blaze

WATERTOWN, N. Y., May 29 (AP).—Sidney Fox, thirty-five years old, and his son, Harold, four, burned to death today when their home was destroyed by fire.

Three other children, Doris, seven; Shirley, three, and Gerald, two, were saved when they were dropped from a second-floor window by Millard G. La Plante, thirty-eight, who was an overnight guest at the home.

[illegible] you might [illegible] to [illegible] in a fine [illegible]

INDEXED

61-7398-76

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 16 1936 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[illegible]e Black Legion ever broke into the newspapers I heard its name ringing on the street phone or soundingboard section in South Hartford on Maple Avenue near Pawtucket Street. I have been told any one can get on those phones but since the Black Legion has been in the newspapers some one has been using names that a few days later have been printed in the accident columns of the newspapers. Some one shouted "Where is old man firesignal, I mean New Jersey" and that was a week before the fires started. Then the names mentioned in the enclosed clippings were said too. I do not know how much else comes over that might be a code as I see no results in the newspapers.

Since there seems to be no motive of robbery or revenge connected with these happenings I thought that it might be some gang of street terrorists such as the Black Legion. It seems to be devilishly clever and

address unknown

JUN 9 1936

often perpetrated among the most conservative class of people who would not welcome any suggestion of foul play.

Often they use slang that I do not at the time understand and several times I have afterwards found out it was crooks jargon. The other day they said to me calling out my name "You have had Crooks Protection but now we will tip you the black spot". The names of people that get hurt come over once in awhile quietly sandwiched in among the jargon. Then the other day they said "We will put you onto the black spot legion". Do you suppose they mean they would hook me up with the street phones giving harm signals! It makes me feel physically sick to hear the named called out and afterwards to see them in the newspaper crime accounts and not be able to do anything about it. But the thing sounds so fantastic I don't know whom to go to. The people in Hartford seem to hate the streets threats but don't seem to be able to do anything about it.

Last week some deep voice on several different streets of Hartford said 167 Washington Street, I know the policeman who doesn't want her out, then Keenen, or Koenig and in a few days a policeman at that address and by that name died of heart trouble which might have been caused by several things. Now as I write a deep voice says "Miss Kelly is on our crime list."

At first I thought it might be the engineer at some big radio station or else some news agency or some amateur station fooling us but it seems to have serious enough results.

They threaten to get my mother who lives in another state and I have not got enough money to supply private guards or any written evidence that would warrant police protection. They cannot threaten me into silence. If my family are to be hurt anyway I am going to do what I can to prevent a few crimes.

They seem to be a gang who strike without warning and this street is what they call their clearing room.

One day the detonator boomed "Look out your mother with fall in the street next Thursday and if you warn her I will kill her." It seemed crazy and fantastic and I did nothing but she did fall in the street on that very day. It seems to be crime with no idea of gain other than the power over human life.

The men seem to call him Frank and some of the nurses at the Psychiatric Hospital say "Father Geshayten". I don't know what it is all about! It is awful! I haven't much faith in the local police when their own men get caught in a death trap, such as that. Every one else in Hartford can hear it ringing. I hope it comes under the jur-

isdiction of the Federal Bureau.

Some man's voice will give the order to "give it over WJZ", or some other station. How can they bootlet the big stations' power and for that reason it made me think that the big companies must be fooling until I read the newspapers. Some people up here call "him" Big Frank Mabwig or Paul Mabwig. But the important part is that people are getting hurt and the names used reach into different states.

I could give you pages of things that have happened but it would not be of any aid as there would not be any record of them found. The only thing I guess is to investigate the district and listen in on the signals or whatever they are, certainly orders of some kind.

Sincerely,

The threatened Ellis J Kelley.

(I am afriad of them!)

4pages.
May 31, 1936.

# 3 IN BLACK LEGION ADMIT KIDNAPPING

## Abduction and Flogging of a Fellow Member in October Is Laid to Gang of Fifteen.

## HELD UNDER $50,000 BAIL

### Trio Pleads Guilty but Victim Refuses to Identify Men—Ohio Strength Shown.

N.Y. Times 6/5/36

By WILL LISSNER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 4.—Fifteen more members of the Black Legion were charged with kidnapping in a warrant sworn out today by Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor. The accusations were in connection with the flogging of another member for failure to attend meetings.

Although the prosecutor yesterday demonstrated the limits to which a member would be bound by his oath of secrecy when he obtained from Dayton Dean, terrorist gunman, an eye-witness story of the Poole murder in preliminary court proceedings, fear of the secret society stalked again in the same court.

Robert Penlan of Ecourse, victim of the kidnapping, refused to identify the three men who were arrested today as part of the fifteen. The three, who, Mr. McCrea said, admitted in statements that they took part in the abduction on orders from their superior officers, turned the tables by identifying the complainant.

The men, Thomas F. Cox, Frederick A. Gulley and Earl Angstadt, were held under $50,000 bail each for preliminary court examination Monday.

**Three Men Plead Guilty**

Penlan, in a reluctant complaint, disclosed that he had been taken from his dinner table at the points of revolvers last October, hurried by automobile o a field outside Detroit in Oakland County within earshot of a monastery, and haled before a disciplinary court-martial before several hundred robed night riders. He insisted the rule violation claim was dismissed and was corroborated by Angstadt and Cox. Gulley confessed, the prosecutor said, that Penlan was tied to a tree and lashed.

The three men pleaded guilty at their arraignment, but the court, learning by questioning that they were unaware of the seriousness of the offense charged, set aside the pleas, ordered that they stand mute until they had consulted an attorney and entered pleas of not guilty.

Twelve others, all ranking officers of the Black Legion, are being sought under "John Doe" identifications in the warrant.

The arrests brought to light new details of the strength of the organization in Ohio. Gulley said his father had been a member in the neighboring State and he was inducted there when he became 21. He insisted that the Black Knights acted as aids to law enforcement agencies there and said they were better organized and disciplined than in Michigan.

**Held in $3,000 Bail**

In Jackson, Mich., a man alleged to be second in command of the strong "regiment" there was held in $3,000 bail on a felonious assault charge. The prisoner, Glenn Finkel, a salesman, was accused of leading the effort to coerce the Rev. Ralph Montague, Baptist clergyman, into joining the Black Legion. Judge Ernest J. Rogers, in a grand jury conducted before him, is attempting to learn the name of Finkel's superior, believed to be the up-State commander.

Four men, two of whom are public employes, were bound over by Judge Rogers for trial on assault charges in connection with the flogging of a member for failing to attend meetings. Dite Hawley, former lieutenant of guards at the State prison, a State witness, said that Ray Ernest, dismissed guard, ordered that Harley Smith of Norvell, Mich., be sent for. Smith was tried in his house before Ernest, "brigadier general" who ordered the five lashes that were given the man, Hawley, a "major," testified.

The prisoners, who included Glenn and Clarence Ernest, brothers of Fay, and Allan Basom, County Road Commission worker, were represented by Clyde L. Fulton, former police justice of Highland Park, who is also attorney for Arthur Lupp, Detroit "general." Ray Ernest also was arraigned on a charge of carrying concealed weapons in conenction with the arsenal found in his home and was held for examination.

**Further Inquiries Are Planned**

The grand jury inquiry has established that in Jackson County the membership is concentrated in three towns, but in them there is hardly a household that is not represented on the terrorist organization's roster.

Wayne County's State grand jury inquiry in Detroit opened with testimony by Inspector John S. Hoffman of the Detroit police. Inspector Hoffman has been investigating charges that several score of members of the Detroit force are members of the Black Legion and has been checking 500 names of substantial citizens found in files at raided headquarters of the organization.

The Circuit Bench in Oakland County, sitting at Pontiac, where a citizens' committee has charged that the secret society dominates the local government and is implicated in several mysterious deaths, suspicious fires and bombings, decided today to conduct a grand jury inquiry there.

Ray Markland, investigator for Mr. McCrea who has taken prominent part in uncovering the Penlan kidnapping case, was named as having attended a meeting of the Black Legion in 1934. The statement was made before the Highland Park Police and Fire Commission, at a session called to determine how many city employes there had affiliated themselves with the hooded order.

**Markland Denies Charges**

Besides the investigator, a County Court Clerk, a City Commissioner and a Police and Fire Commissioner attended the meeting. The witness, a city truck driver, who has admitted membership, testified. Three other city employes, one a Fire Department captain admitted membership and were called before the hearing. Mr. Markland denied attending and said he was in the hospital on the date given.

The County Court Clerk named was Clyde Markland, aide to Judge James E. Chenot, before whom the Wayne County grand jury inquiry is being conducted by State Attorney General David H. Crowley. Clyde Markland, a brother of Ray, also denied the charges, but announced his resignation immediately, declaring he did not wish to embarrass Judge Chenot.

Mr. McCrea made public an exchange of telegrams between Representative John D. Dingell and himself. Mr. Dingell, asking that he submit to the Federal authorities evidence of violation of Federal laws, told him he believed indications of a Kidnapping Law violation would be "the way which will permit the G-men to come in." Mr. McCrea replied that it seemed to him the Federal Treasure Law had been violated.

INDEXED

6-4-1936

JEH:OEP

June 3, 1936.

Time - 12:10 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. Suydam telephoned and stated he had been advised by the Detroit News that Mrs. Dayton Dean, who has been writing a number of signed articles for the Hearst papers about the Black Legion, has left Detroit with a reporter for the Detroit Times and it is thought she is on her way to Washington; that if she gets to interview anyone in the Department it is thought the Hearst papers would publish stories to the effect that the Department is in on the case. I stated that if she appeared at my office I would have her sent directly to Mr. Suydam's office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-77

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 5 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 4 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

June 13, 1936

EFE:BR
61-7396-78
Mrs. Margaret A. Sims,
Rupert, Idaho.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated June 2, 1936.

The contents of your communication have been carefully noted. I desire to inform you that this Bureau is authorized to conduct investigations only in those cases where there is some indication of a violation of specified Federal Laws. The facts outlined in your communication do not indicate a violation of any Federal Law within this Bureau's investigative jurisdiction, and therefore no action can be taken upon the subject matter of your letter.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Butte

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 13 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rupert Ida
June 2, 1936

J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir: I feel satisfyed in fa[illegible]
I know there is a strong organazati[illegible]
of Black Legion in this part of Idaho.
I've been a victim of them for bette[illegible]
than 20 years. My husband hered [illegible]
in 1913, and that I believe is when the
hounceing started. You see I was to [illegible]
the Fornication stock of our "Best
People." around in the 1890's one
Frank J. Ja Rue at Burley in a Bank
shot himself. — There was [illegible]
he was supposed to have [illegible]
found that he went to Europe [illegible]
of the bank's money his wife [illegible]
Rose Ja Rue Rupert, got a lot of life
insurance and his brother H.
Beymer (President of the First Security
Bank Rupert) comes here around [illegible]
the low-class people they bass [illegible]

61-7398-78

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 15 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 8 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Ack. 6/13/36 - EFE

Now here is what I want you to do.
Send a man here, a Federal man that
no one here knows, pretending he is lookin
for a location as a lawyer. In any business
talk he also say he has a brother
the east and "if I locate here I am going
a farm and will put him on it," and
that he has his eye on the Lims as well
the residences on it at Topsey. Have
if he can convince these bad people
that he is serious there is no telling
what he might discover. Then
he should find plenty here to justify
the G-men the Burning Cross business
could be investigated. I feel satisfied
this Frank L. La Rue did nothing else
but hood wink the rest of his life (he is
dead now) as he does not mysteriously
go and stay so long — in 1905 he spent 6 m
in Europe. I hasn't very much doubt
that this Frank L. La Rue helped start the
Blue Hoodoo stuff in the United States
[illegible] the Lims

7.

13

EFB:CSH
61-7298-79

June 16, 1936

RECORDED 61-7298

Special Agent in Charge,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 5, 1936, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to you under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] of Spencer, North Carolina, together with copies of a letter addressed to Mr. E. H. Robinson, of Spencer, North Carolina by one E. M. Hicks of Asheville, North Carolina, dated May 11, 1936. It is noted that Mr. [redacted] indicates the letter addressed to Mr. Robinson may refer to the activities of the Black Legion.

You are advised that this Bureau is taking no action with regard to the activities of the Black Legion, and you are under no circumstances to conduct any investigation relative thereto without specific instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Harbo
Chief Clerk
Mr. Diggs
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 17 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1887,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 5, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: Re: BLACK LEGION ACTIVITIES.

Transmitted herewith are two copies of a letter addressed to this office under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] Spencer, North Carolina, and two copies of a letter addressed to one, H. H. Robinson, Spencer, North Carolina, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936, which letter was forwarded to this office by Mr. [redacted] Two copies of my reply to Mr. [redacted] dated today, are also attached hereto.

It is noted that Mr. [redacted] believes the letter addressed to Robinson by Hicks refers to Black Legion activities. Consequently, I am bringing this to the Bureau's attention for general information and such reference as may be deemed appropriate.

The original communication addressed to Robinson is being retained in the files of this office, it being likely that Mr. [redacted] may request its return to him.

Very truly yours,

G. N. Lowdon

G. N. LOWDON,
Special Agent in Charge.

GNL:ADC
Encls.
62-594

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 19 1936

61-7348-79
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 3 1936

9

COPY:ADC

Spencer, N.C.
June 2, 1935

Mr. G. N. Lowdon,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed, you will find a letter that accidentally came into my possession. I obtained this letter from the person to whom it is addressed, H. H. Robinson. Mr. Robinson informs me that this letter is from a "Black Legion" leader, who has been seeking his aid in organizing through this section. I can learn no more from him concerning this letter, other than his statement to the effect that this letter refers to the "Black Legion". He asked that I destroy the letter after reading it; so, he is unaware that it is in your possession. Please do not think me a "crank" for sending you this letter. It may be only a false alarm, yet this fellow Hicks may warrant investigation. I got hold of this letter on May 28, and would have sent it sooner, but I wasn't quite sure just what to do. I hope this letter will be of some importance. At your service, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

(s) [redacted]
Spencer, N.C.

61-7398-79

COPY COPY COPY

Asheville, N.C.
143 Blanton St.
May 11, 1936.

Mr. H. H. Robinson,
International Organizer
Spencer, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you this notice in order that I may hear from you at once.

If you are going to St. Louis, Mo. let us join together Saturday night, May 16, leaving out of Asheville on train No. 27. I would like for you to come to my home the same day on No. 11 in order that we may go over somethings about our working conditions in the state of N. C. as we understand just what confronts us through this territory, if you can come on No. 11 just come right on to my home. I will be working but will be home about four o'clock.

I shall look to hear from at you earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Signed:- W. M. Hicks

W. M. Hicks

61-7398-29

Post Office Box 1387,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 6, 1936.

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted] North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 2, 1936, with which you forwarded a letter addressed to Mr. H. H. Robinson, by one, H. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936.

It is noted that you have secured information indicating that the letter to Mr. Robinson refers to "Black Legion" activities. Inasmuch as this matter does not appear to constitute any violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau presently has jurisdiction, no action in regard thereto can be taken by this office.

I appreciate, however, your courteous cooperation in submitting this information for my attention, and wish to thank you for your action.

Very truly yours,

G. N. LONDON,
Special Agent in Charge.

GNL:ADC
62-504

61-7398-79

84

420 Post Office Bldg.,
Dallas, Texas.

June 6, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am transmitting herewith a news clipping from the Dallas Times-Herald of 6/2/36, captioned "Hoover Roped in for Centennial," and an editorial from the same publication of the same date captioned "They Sent in a Call for the G-Men;" also an editorial from the Dallas Morning News of 6/4/36 "The Parole System."

Very truly yours,

F.J. Blake,
Special Agent in Charge.

FJB:LTH

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7378-80

JUN 26 1936

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILE

## THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE G-MEN

Dallas Times Herald June 2 - 1936

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES lost no time in calling for federal assistance when they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But the department of justice still recognizes the fact that national law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney General Cummings simply stated that the G-men could not step in unless there were clear indications that federal law had been flouted. Upon the state enforcement machinery the major portion of the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious political organization. For that reason local elective officials naturally wonder how many votes they will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It ~~would be~~ convenient for them to accept federal aid and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.

61-7398-80

EAT:TMF

67-1398-81 June 4, 1936

RECORDED

Honorable John Lesinski,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 27, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 25, 1936 by Dr. Nathan J. Bicknell of 10508 West Chicago Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, in which investigation is requested into the operations of the Black Legion. I must advise you that in the absence of some showing of a violation of a Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I cannot authorize or initiate any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion.

The original letter addressed to you by Dr. Bicknell is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831445

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Beardman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Hanson
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scoville
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 5 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN LESINSKI
19TH DIST. MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:
LABOR
INVALID PENSIONS
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

May 27,1936

Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed please find letter which I have this date received relative to the Black Legion at Detroit.

If possible I would appreciate your investigating this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Lesinski

JOHN LESINSKI, M.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 11 1936

61-7398-81

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 6 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
TAMM
TWO
FILE

NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M. D.

10508 West Chicago Avenue
Detroit.

C
O
P
Y

May 25, 1936.

Dear Congressman Lesinski:-

Startling unbelievable revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough Federal investigation.

Many state and municipal employees are definitely implicated, and local investigation will be curtailed before higher ups are exposed.

I would like to know what connection former Gov. Wilbur Burckes (?) has with this organization, also if Harry Bennett, Chief Ford Stool Pigeon is not behind the scenes.

It is high time that federal authorities expose without fear or favour this entire setup. One Leader says "Why a dictator from Russia or Rome, why not have one of our own?" Liberty Leagues or Wall Street Dictator? I wonder?

Decent Michigan people would welcome action.

In the name of Humanity Please act at once.

Yours truly,

/s/ N. J. Bicknell.

61-7391-81

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

June 6, 1936

61-7398-82

JUN 8 1936

JUN 10 1936

Two

[illegible] Sullivan Ind

Charles Lutz

the church that Hangs at Vincennes

Ed Jackman 13th Street Terre Haute

Richard Sorlain and Walter 923 North 4th + 915 Second St Vincennes Sullivan Ind

Fred Vault church a fellow the Old Dutch at Brazil Ind

Fred Sanger gone to Terre Haute

Bill Douglass South 1½ St about

1800 Barrels

the [illegible] Owners

at Grandhall Ill

John Sawyer at [illegible] Ind

[illegible]

Norman [illegible] and [illegible]

near Grandhall Ill

[illegible] Sawyer at Hutsonville

Ill Fred Turner, [illegible]

Harry Roberts [illegible]

at West Union Ill.

Roberts of Terre Haute

Groves at [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 18 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Cow [illegible] around here

They have three [illegible]

around West Terre Haute

Rockville, [illegible] Ill and

Hammond

a friend that

knows they do

125 Painter and Vrice

at Sullivan Trial

a Gamer at 410 12 St. runs

meat Shop.

85

TERRE HAUTE
JUN 6
12 PM
1936
IND.

John E. Hoover
Investigating Bureau
Washington D. C.

ESTABLISHED 1908
Herbert S. Mikesell
SCIENTIFIC SECRET SERVICE
LABORATORIES
Richmond, Indiana
U.S.A.

AMERICAN-FOREIGN
CRIMINOLOGY PRACTICE

RADIO-CABLEGRAMS. HSMS.
ALL INTERNATIONAL CODES

no answer file
HSM

June 5th 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Dept. of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. Hoover:

Sometime during the winter of 1932 after the assination of Mayor Cermak of Chicago, Ill., while riding with the, the new President of the United States during a parade in Miami, Fla. I mailed you at Washington a letter relative to a person who moved one to enter into a secret organization and open a bacterial laboratory in the region of Miami for pathological cultures of bacteria.

After I have reported occurences of this nature to the proper authorities, I destroy the copies of such correspondence in order to prevent such from falling into the hands of those persons who would use the information to an illegal advantage.

Should you still have this letter you be kind enough to forward same to his Honor Mayor Frank A. Couzens of Detroit, Mich., as I am

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7378-3
FILED, INDEXED, SERIALIZED
JUN 9 1936
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 17 1936

now confident this fellow was connected with the Black Legion under investigation.

It is the name and personal description of the fellow that the Detroit officials would be interested in.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Herbert S. Wilkerson
#6 - Howard Place
Richmond, Ind.

P.S. Best luck for your continued success.

RGH:MCL
61-7398-8

June 12, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. Glenn Lyberger,
413 Main Street,
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Lyberger:

Your letter was received in this Bureau on June 9, 1936, in which you advise of the desire of some of the young men from Meyersdale to organize a club for the enforcement of laws.

Please be advised that there is no provision whereby this Bureau can sponsor such an organization. The work of this Bureau is performed by duly authorized Special Agents whose qualifications are detailed in the enclosed copy of the publication entitled "The Selection and Training of Personnel." Only the Special Agents are entitled to identification cards.

As of possible interest, I am enclosing the following additional publications:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Addresses delivered by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before the annual convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution on April 23, 1936, and before the annual convention of the Boys' Clubs of America on May 28, 1936.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1149191

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUN 12 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

413 Mar

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have all the cases from Superior Court complete to date & also send you in keeping for the Pinkerton Lecture in Lima. Also the matter of Amends etc. I would like to be sworn under a juror's oath and have authority to arrest the crook. Also I am a card from your office

Special Deputy

RECEIVED
JUN 15 1936
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-84

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 9 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOSEPH DILL
TWO

FILE

Stopping to

Thanking you

6-12-36

108

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington
D.C.

KFR:AF
61-7398-85

June 19, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 8, 1936, in which you indicate your belief that certain fires of incendiary origin may have been caused by the Black Legion, which you allege is active in your section of the country, and request that this Bureau take appropriate action.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or similar organizations are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in the premises.

Concerning the statement contained in your letter to the effect that a certain person, who is not a citizen of the United States and without intention to become one, has attempted to take your life, it is suggested that you may care to furnish full information relative to this party to Colonel Daniel W. MacCormack, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., for such attention as he may deem appropriate.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 19 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Omaha

[redacted]

6-19-36 (Acks) [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

61-7328-15

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 10 1936 A. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[redacted]

gas Hoover
e last end of the block
in is right here
ne and Waterville Maine
ow approve of any one
ing indimified up and
heavy power on them so
tle will get it so to kill
e one. this is what they
doing in Waterville and
callages and people out
e have been doing to
have them in place
street city Hall box and
y one is down street and
the power on them and
e look just awful to
they play ~~heavy power~~ so bad
power things they want to
e if they cant kill and the
y people are doing to so
the older ones want work
do more than the young
then they will have to hire
ung men 18-19. and put

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 12 1950
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
NYC 0
TELETYPE COMMUNICATION
ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Power W

Sunday

trying to get among in
town some how. most
come from the power station
dont it they have 12 inch
square black leather ones
to do with so many. and
done to make them pay the
bonus and to get no pension
for the aged and they wanted
to kill them. there is a
job for your federal men.
Prehaps these men black
legion ones killed the
Lindburg baby too. and this
Power has got into the church
of God too. so to get rid of the
older members. so please
get rid of such awful here
in Waterville. you and the
young people are doing just
the same as mothers
and fathers are doing
this way. all churches and
salvation army we find

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 10 11 AM 1936

in Maine this way. the
and city. for
Fox
Lond.

ne times in a large Radio
the kitchen to the Water
e and out the Window
is in in Monmouth
side of the state Lord but
didnt put in so Much
ver and then there is a
und like Water siggling
e Place here in Hallcourt,
City Hall. The Mayor
rors, and people Most
ery one who has Radios
try ing to do Now, unlen
y are pretty good christian
me dont know they are
at running, because some
told them to and some
know and says so to
you better look in to this
get rid of them or Make
them right. The
did is the devil tools. to
el if they can Message

rough going round get up
to get the power on so to kill
electrcute this way. and they
have a good Many who have
died so suddenly. you Men
better clean this stuff up
dont show this to any one here
or I dont want any one to
know, and these ones dont
want any thing said. No
wonder the world is in the
condition it is in and the
blood came and apple trees
bloge, and the lightening struck
some said Lord Men,
gods Judgement in the land
and this has been going on
year 1/2 and some far two
and by all the churches Members
some of them and demerstrated
things to and some out and
one Biel the Garage Man he
had some thing in his
machine to do and he called

full state of Mexico
here
Mexico.
know what this
means

and [illegible] Simon W. [illegible]
demestrated here to
different Ways and talk
Dont show this to any
one here but look in
to this and get rid of
them as as stop them
from doing the Law
dont seem to. Dont dare
to I guess dont know
they know they are
doing and prehaps they
are to dont know.
Portland Man was right
when he said the
Tail end of black legion
was in Main.
Had this set up all round
here and church people
to. We wonder they do
under such Power shame
and want you to stop this
same. [illegible]

Pity to put in the Machine tools power it is
like — the power what they are using and the
get it to. We wonder they do
this is the Work the Warbel is being done
and the ernie. Hoping as of far
but

the col get them get
chance they say we
in callage they put this
power on to make them kill
them selves say over this
While they getting the power on
them and to go to doctor so
he can in an easy way
and glad to get them in the
crazey house and the young
to do wrong under this
power and to do wrong and
this is why so many come
before the court the young and
why the institutions are full
get them there shames to have
any such warbs I say and
long arals and cut down
as warse and they are having
the devils tools they are to kill
if they can get enough power
on them the rodio and the one
running it and to the one
that they are trying to kill
they shouldnt be allowed to
have them in beer parlors
and such places Garages and

Ro and bad the
and by what they have
and
but robbing
one other

a Okay to a good many things
being done in their house
rules and their power in the
first place

9th will be over right and
[illegible]

one cross from Jeff's lover

MAINE
AUG 1 2
U.S.

John Edgar Hoo
Washington D.C.

78 Stevens and Watt

This is true because they have and are doing to me
Now if they didnt put on so
Much power and Play dessent and
Roosevelt is right

Line 17 The point with about
Alan 2 MM after the
over Lathrop barber shop
and Thus also if the upper
College are crossing neither
one chosen from

Henry Lane
sodus and The
first place

Where does the power come
from at head quarters as
from E Central Maine power
Co electricity over the wires
as from steam it does
come quick.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schlider
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Mr. Kleinhaut

Record of Telephone Call of Visitor.

May 30 1936.

Time 11:10 AM

Name Blair Moody of the Detroit News

tele

Referred to

Details:

Stated he would like to talk to the Director about the Black Legion and about the Pension Bill.

Asked to be called at National 4566.

oep

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 18 1936

61-7398-87

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 2 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

Mr. D. Dept. of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-88

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 10 1936

Gentlemen,

The writer is of the opinion you may find traces of the Black Legion in Menlo Park, California, and Atherton.

However, this is only a hunch.

One Mrs. Wm. Beatty Wright (who lived in Detroit years ago and who is rather "hard-boiled" towards certain elements) Fairfield Ave. Atherton may be one of them.

This is only a hunch.

American

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

RECORDED

EAT:RLG June 4, 1936.

61-7393-89

Honorable Tom Connally,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have received your communication of June 1, 1936, transmitting a telegram addressed to you under date of June 1, 1936, by [redacted] from Houston, Texas, in which [redacted] advises that he is in possession of information concerning the activities of the Black Legion.

I desire to inform you that this Bureau is conducting no investigation into the operations of the Black Legion because no information has been developed to date indicating that this organization is operating in violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction. I am consequently returning herewith the telegram addressed to you by [redacted].

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #863145

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 6 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# United States Senate

June 1, 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder ✓
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Respectfully referred to
Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Division of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

with thanks for such favorable consideration as the communication herewith submitted warrants, and for a report thereon, to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

U. S. S.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Incl. 1d
m5
H Ans 6-4-36
24 Ed

JUN 15 1936

61-7378-89

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 9 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM TWS FILE

rlg COPY

WESTERN UNION

1936 JUN 1 AM 1 31

AA12 30 NL 3 EXTRA- HOUSTON TEX 31

HON TOM CONNALLY
US SENATOR OF TEXAS WASH DC

IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES OF BLACK LEGION WHICH IS PROBABLY OF A WIDER SPREAD NATURE THAN IS ORDINARILY THOUGHT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

[redacted] TEXAS STATE HOTEL HOUSTON

*

61-7398-89

copy - b

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee On
Immigration and Naturalization
Washington, D. C.

Samuel Dickstein,
N.Y., Chairman

May 25th, 1936.

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Since the Committee on Un-American Activities has concluded its investigation dealing with subversive movements in the United States, there has popped up additional foreign and domestic elements which are continuously, in one form or another, advocating propaganda subversive in its tendencies through the distribution of literature against the Federal employees, which in my opinion, is not free speech or free press, but seeks to undermine our present form of Government. It may be Communism, it may be Fascism, or it may be any other ism one might care to call it.

I am enclosing herewith, a number of documents which I have received from an American citizen which shows the danger as imminent. It is most urgent, therefore, that these matters be looked into and investigated, to find out who is financing this propaganda, and from where it is emanating. If you think it necessary, I will be glad to call upon Congress for further power and assistance in competing with this menace.

I also call your attention to another piece of subversive propaganda which is distributed by one who calls himself Robert Edward Edmondson. This sheet is nothing but propaganda, financed by a group in Wall Street, to betray the American people against the President of the United States, and other outstanding men and women, who happen to be members of his Cabinet, or otherwise prominent in public life.

In our investigation we came across anonymous complaints dealing with a so-called "Black Shirts" organization. We did not have the time to go into this matter at that time, and no doubt did not take it as seriously as we might have. I do not know if the present organization known as the "Black Legion" is in any way connected with this

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-70
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 6 1936

JUN 12 1936

62-32212-2
ORIGINAL FILED IN

above mentioned group, but it seems to me that this "Black Legion" is a group of subversivists who are seeking to destroy American citizens because of racial and religious affiliations, pointed mainly toward my people and people of the Catholic faith. It seems to me that this organization should receive the most careful scrutiny and investigation of your Department.

The mails are being used to foment racial and religious prejudice almost continually, and concerning this aspect I am writing the Post Office Department.

I realize full well I am adding additional burdens to your office, but when we have un-American organizations, under the guise of patriots, stoop so low as to attack through the mails, as shown by the enclosures, and through other nefarious methods, we are indeed living in a Dark Age.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

SAMUEL DICKSTEIN, M.C.

enclosures

COPY

61-7398-90

June 3, 1936

RECORDED

Honorable Samuel Dickstein,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 5, 1936, transmitting various documents which you have received from undisclosed sources, and which you believe justify investigation, for the purpose of determining the source of this propaganda. Because of the existing limitations upon the statutory authority of the Federal Government to investigate radical activities, I cannot initiate any investigation upon the facts furnished by you. I have, however, furnished to Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, the Assistant to the Attorney General, copies of all of the material submitted by you for appropriate consideration by the Department, and have requested the Department to advise me in the event any action is authorized upon

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

62-38219-2

FILED

COPY

AT:TMF

June 3, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN
ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECORDED

61-27398-90

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me under date of May 25, 1936 by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, together with photostatic copies of the various inclosures referred to in the Congressman's letter. I have acknowledged receipt of this letter and have informed Congressman Dickstein that the Bureau will not initiate any inquiry into these matters because of the absence of Federal Statutes penalizing radical activities. In the event you believe any other action should be taken upon this matter, I would appreciate being so advised by you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure #851229

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-37271

June 11, 1936

RECORDED 61-7398-91

EFE:DT

Mr. [redacted]

Greenfield, Ohio.

38764

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936 furnishing full information relative to the activities of the Night Riders of Ohio, of which organization you indicate you are a member but have been unable to resign by reason of the threats received from that organization. It is noted that you request that this Bureau take appropriate action against this organization.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws. The facts contained in your communication have been carefully noted but in the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal Law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, your courtesy in furnishing me information relative to this organization is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Cincinnati

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 11 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tamm calls Dir.'s attention to the attached letter from a member of the Night Riders who tells of the actions of this secret organization (which is apparently akin to the Black Legion). He was forced to join under threat and desires to get out.
The only way they can get out of the organization is by death, and he gives instructions for answering this letter.

emk

38765

54

[redacted]

38766

Greenfield, Ohio
May 25, 1936

61-7398-9

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 18 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 28 1936

To the Special Agent in charge of investigating the Black Legion in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I have been reading for the last few days of the acts of the Black Legion in Michigan and had intended to write a letter to Attorney-general John Bricker of Ohio. When I heard that the F. B. I. was taking a hand I decided to write there instead, chiefly for my own protection as they are known for keeping the names of informants secret.

I am a member of the Night Riders of Ohio and want to get out; have wanted to since the night I joined under threat.

During the summer of 1934 I was approached several times by two acquaintances who asked me if I wanted to join a "secret, patriotic organization, opposed to Communism, Fascism, and other foreign experiments and standing for white supremacy, the constitution and opposition to permitting negroes, jews, Japanese, Chinese and any but native born American citizens who had proved their loyalty from holding or controlling office."

I sounded them out for more than a year as I thought the idea sounded dangerous. However the two men seemed to be perfectly decent citizens if not overly brainy. From general conversations that I held with them at various times I was told that this organization did not believe in terrorism, that it was chiefly an effort to spread American propoganda, that it did not believe in any sort of oppression, and that they planned no action till the day when some group tried to sieze the government by force--then they would rally much after the fashion of Minute Men, and be ready for business.

On their promise that no one was forced to join against his will I accompanied them to a meeting. Another person whom I knew slightly was there also and in a few minutes when we were alone voiced the same opinion I had. Something was needed to combat seditious activity but this didn't look like the right thing. We agreed that if we did not like the looks of things that we would not join.

This was while I was living in Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. In September of 1935, one of the men picked me up at my home after cautioning me to tell no one where I was going. We drove east on the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30 till a mile or so east of the side road to Orrville. We turned north there for some distance on a back road and turned sharply to the right at a railroad crossing, more than a right angle, and swung away from the tracks without crossing them. After driving some distance down this road we passed a large barn which the driver said was the largest all-metal barn in that territory, perhaps in the whole country. A short distance farther along we turned in at a farm lane marked by a lighted lantern hanging on some sort of wooden platform. We turned to the right and after

passing either two farm houses or one farm house and a very artistic barn, stopped in a field. Two men in civilian clothes stopped us and spoke to the driver for a moment, asking him if we were candidates and if he could vouch for us. He then parked, left us in the car and went on ahead. Several more cars arrived and fifteen or twenty candidates were seated in them.

After waiting nearly an hour, during which time the acquaintance and I discussed the thing in low tones, six men dressed in black gowns and hoods and carrying revolvers came down to the cars, lined us up and marched us through the field, up a hill till we were well out of sight from the road.

We were asked numerous questions about our political, social, and religious beliefs. I list as many as I remember:

Are you an American citizen?

Native born?

What is your religion?

What are your politics?

Do you believe in supporting the Constitution?

Do you believe in Lynch Law? My acquaintance was the only one who dedidedly opposed it. They then asked him, "If you came home and found a nigger raping your wife what would you do?" He replied, "There wouldn't be any time for lynching." They laughed and said he would do.

Do you promise to vote as your commander tells you if the candidate is the better man?

We were then told that we had gone so far we could not back out and that we would have to join. Two who "Refused" and threatened to tell were punished. One was hanged and one shot. I assume these were staged to impress us and that they were already members. At least no disappearances were reported in that part of Ohio at the time and I watched the papers closely. However in the dark, and with armed men all around we none thought of it or wanted to take the chance.

We were then told to kneel and one of the members pressed a gun to the back of each initiate while we took an oath. I reproduce it as nearly as I can remember.

"I, candidate's name, swear by all the powers of heaven and hell, that I will never betray any of the secrets or fellow members of this organization; that I will be relentless in my fight against Communists, Jews, Catholics, black-legs and any of their kind. That I will obey all orders of a superior officer of this organization even if they mean my own death. That I will let no bonds of friendship or affection cause me to fail in my duty; that I take these members to be my brothers and will never forsake them."

There was much more to it but that is as nearly as I can remember.

We were told that there was no way of resigning from the organization except by death. The leader boasted that one member who had tried to get out had been killed and his car burned near New Philadelphia, Ohio, and no one was the wiser. Each one of us was then handed a .303 Savage rifle cartridge, base first, and told that any others would come at us ball end first. We were then permitted to leave.

Since then I have attended only one meeting which was held in what I assumed to be the Ku Klux Klan meeting place, a room on the third floor of a building on the north-east corner of the public square, Wooster, Ohio.

I managed to avoid attending any other meetings as I was away at college part of the time, until December, 1935, when I graduated from the School of Journalism, Ohio State University.

At other times I told them I was going out of town for the evening or had a date. We were notified only at the last minute and no one but the driver of the car knew where to go.

3876

I have done some cautious questioning since then and was told that the Ohio commander is a veterinary doctor who lives "near the Ohio River." That there are between 300 and 400 members in Wayne county alone.

At the time of the initiation which was shortly after the death of Huey Long, the whole organization paid a minute of "silent tribute to that great southern leader, Huey Long."

I was told that the Night Riders and the K.K.K. cooperate and have much the same ideals but that there is no connection. To satisfy my desire for proof I attended an open meeting of the K.K.K. and recognized several as men I had seen after the initiation when they unmasked.

The recognition signal between two members who are not sure of each other but want to become acquainted follows:

A reaches up and raises the front of his hat or cap.
B pulls his down.
A pulls his down.
B pushes his up.
A raises his again.
B pulls his down.
They shake hands, A saying, "Under the star of the guard."
B replies, "So shall it be."
A, "Unto the end."

The password is given only when a member of sentinel in full regalia and under arms asks for it. A member is not to give it to any one else. When the guard asks for the password the member says, "Place Americans only, on guard."

The names of several whom I know to be members in the Wayne county group are:

Henry Shelly, owner of Shelley's Dairy on the Three C Highway about a mile north of Wooster. He is, or was, the colonel of the Wooster company.

John Hites who lives on a cross road just north and west of Shelley. He is employed at the Minglewood Coal and Ice plant, Wooster.

Thomas Glasgow, second hand dealer and truck driver, whose business place is on South Walnut Street, Wooster, Ohio.

Fred Read, or Reed, or Ried, I am not sure which, who joined with me against his wishes.

Clifford G. Odell, gunsmith and railroad worker. Business place, North Buckeye St., Wooster, Ohio. Residence, Blair Boulevard. I doubt if he is active as he was not at either meeting I attended and has spoken very strongly against the methods of the K.K.K.

Carey Grosenbaugh.

A man named Farner.

One of the members of the Orrville police force. I don't know his name but he was initiated the same night I was.

It is claimed that Sheriff Bert Nauman of Wayne county is a member. I did not see him at either meeting.

They were trying to get Ed. Mills, deputy sheriff, and now

lican candidate for sheriff, to join. I have not heard whether he did or not. They also boasted that "Some of the police and National Guard are members."

They claimed affiliation with an organization in Pennsylvania known as the "Wild Cats."

387

I am sending this letter to a friend in Columbus who is to drop it in a mail box without any question. I am employed here as a reporter on the Greenfield Daily Republican and do not want to arouse any questions among possible members here. I will be willing to help the F.B.I. as far as possible in future but must ask that this information, my name, and the town from which the letter was mailed be held in strictest confidence.

Had I realised what the organization really was I would never have considered joining. My newspaper training, my desire for adventure, and my ignorance of its true character lead me to a position where I could not safely withdraw. I hope this will assist in breaking up what has proved to be as dangerous a movement as the ones it claims to combat. If any reply is made please send it to my residence in plain envelope.

Very respectfully yours,

[redacted]

EFE:VTL
RECORDED 61-7398-92 June 23, 1936. 38762

Special Agent in Charge,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Los Angeles, California, June 12, 1936, containing information relative to the activities of the Ku Klux Klan organization in the southern part of California, and especially in Los Angeles, California.

This is being furnished you for your information, and it is suggested that same be referred to the Los Angeles Police Department for any attention which it may deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1148676

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 23 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION.
SEE ENVELOPE ATTACHED
RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7398-9
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAT
JUN 16 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 24 1936

Re: Black Legion investigation -

Believe this extends into southern California, notably Los Angeles, inuncorporated Los Angeles County, which for some years past has been particularly strong as K.K.K. organization in southwest portion - organized particularly by persons in civil office in and around the Gardena township area: 38763 Frank R. Carrell, for some years justice-of-peace of Gardena township (since 1930 - still incumbent as justice-of-peace of Inglewood township which recently incorporated Gardena township where man's family has lived for years), includes local chief of police, Attorneys, L.A. County Sheriff's sub-station #3 at 107th and S. Vermont Ave., for years controlled by John Neighbor as captain, now radio squad - complaints numerous but each time he was transferred until things blew over he was always put there again among a similar group of deputies to intimidate complaining element of small home-owners and to protect th running (gathered in nightly truck-loads for running to the also constable's office (under Sheriff's office) controlled by C. also protecting liquor interests. L.A. attorneys claim they cann take cases down there to defend account of this set-up. Capt. Croushorn, deputies R.E. Glass, C. Males, and others, especially Florence St. Sta., also protecting liquor interests in respectiv districts and holding local property owners intimidated - all upheld by Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailux of L.A. County. See also L. County Public Welfare Commission minutes of meetings (dance-hall licenses in collaboration with sheriff's office) - 914 Hall of R. L.A. - Carrell's office and residence now at Inglewood; forme Gard

And: The recent mobbing of Actor Wm. Haines by outside mob at night a

51

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
JUN 12
11 AM
1936
9
ARCADE ANNEX

BUY
ASK YOUR

Hon. Edgar Hoover, in Charge,

U. S. Dept. of Justice

Washington, D. C.

RECORDED

EFE:TD
61-7593-95

June 25, 1936

38760

Reverend Columban F. Kelly, O.F.M.,
Mount Alverno Retreat,
Warwick, New York.

Dear Father Kelly:

I have your letter of June 17, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to the menace to the rights and security of citizens resulting from the crimes of violence which are being perpetrated by the Black Legion, and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate action in regard to this organization.

As you undoubtedly know, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of this organization do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, I wish to thank you for your commendatory statements relative to this Bureau and assure you that it is indeed gratifying to know that this Bureau is receiving your blessings and ardent support.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-New York

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Berman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 27 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INDEXED

MT. ALVERNO RETREAT
WARWICK, N. Y.

June 17 ' 36

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughn
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edward
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxwor
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilo
Mr. Scott
Mr. Amb

Dear Dr. Hoover:

I received your kind reply of June 1th to my letter conc ing the crimes of violence perpetrated by the Black Legion. I have at han Work and Functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation--among the lite you so kindly sent me last year while I was in Montreal. It gives the sam formation contained in your letter.

It may turn out that Senator Vandenburg will be instrumental in submitt evidence to the Bureau that the Black Legion will bear investigation beca of the violation of the Civil Rights Statute. Certainly this organization a far greater meance to our rights and security than the gangsters I am ing to the Senator; I know that he has already given time to the matter.

The newspapers carried the happy announcement that the agents of the F. will be aligible for a pension when they reach the retirement age. Good n If and when the time comes for advocating a raise in salary for your assp I hope it will be my privilege to do my modest, tiny bit to contact the p men in Congress. Youw own well deserved raise in pay is a matter for cong ation. God spped you and your men in your work. I do not fail to pray eve morning in my Holy Mass that you will succeed in your official duties. Go you my good man.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Kelly

Fr. Kelly.

Columban F. Kelly, O.F.M.

JUL 6 1936

P.S. I follow your fine articles every month the American Magazine.

61-7398-93

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA

JUN 19 1936 A.M.

U.S. DEPART

TOLSON TWOAK JOSEPHI

C O P Y

EAT:TMF

June 17, 1936.

61-7398-94

Honorable Roy C. McHenry,
United States Commissioner,
Suite 501-4, 97-99 Collier Street,
Binghamton, New York.

My dear Commissioner:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1936, and appreciate receiving your observations concerning the progress which has been made by the Bureau, particularly with reference to the training of its Special Agents. I feel that the Bureau has made tremendous strides in this regard during the last several years.

I regret to advise you that I am unable to furnish you with information concerning the ultimate disposition made of the Thompson submachine guns which were taken from the Steamship East Side in 1921.

In the absence of some indication of a violation of a Federal Statute on the part of the members of the Black Legion, no investigation can be conducted by the Bureau into the activities of this organization and consequently, no investigation has been initiated up to the present time.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-43469

C
O
P
Y

4k

ROY C. McHENRY
Attorney and Counsellor
Suite 501-4, 97-99 Collier St.,
Binghamton, N.Y.

June 5, 1936.

Hon. John Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I was pleased to get your letter and wish to thank you very much for the copy of "Classification of Fingerprints" and the pamphlets "The Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "The Selection and Training of Personel", which I have read with a great deal of interest.

The Bureau has certainly made wonderful strides since I was on the job, in the training of agents. I remember one man who was appointed because he happened to run the elevator in a building where a congressman had his private law office. He turned out to be a good agent at that. But the special training along technical subjects is what appeals to me. I'd have reveled in the targe practice. When I was in charge of the Scranton office, we used to do a little practice shooting, with pistols and revolvers, when we got a chance, but our supply of ammunition was limited and we had to tack or targets to fence posts.

Speaking of firearms, I have often wondered what became of the shipment of Thompson Sub-machine Guns which was taken off the steamship East Side, in 1921. Assistant Attorney General John E. L. Crimm put the quietus on the prosecution at Trenton, but the last I knew, the guns were still in the custody of the U. S. Attorney at Newark and it was altogether unlikely that anybody would claim them and run the risk of being indicted.

According to the papers, the Bureau is to ge out after the Black Legion. It sound good but I can't figure out what Federal statute they can be prosecuted under. I studied a similar proposition with a view to prosecuting the Communists, when I was in the Criminal Division, and came to the conslucion it couldn't be done under existing law. If members of the organization go from one state to another, to avoid prosecution for an offanse enumerated in the Federal Fugitive Act, they might be got that way, perhaps.

At present people around here are not violating the federal laws, at least no cases have come up before me since along in April

Thanking you again for the pamphlets, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(S) Roy C. McHenry.

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7396-94
JUN 5 1936
JUN 30 1936
IDENT UNIT
ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-67179-5

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

TDQ:RCL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 15, 1936.

44

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Sckoppeglia telephoned and stated that he contemplated several articles on the "Black Legion" and wanted to know if any data could be furnished by the Bureau. I informed him that this was a purely local matter; that there was no federal violation involved and, therefore, the Bureau had no information concerning the "Black Legion."

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

61-7398-95

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 15 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON, JOSEPH
TWO

# United States Senate

*Washington, D.C.,* June 19 1936

*Respectfully referred to*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Quinchman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-96

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 22 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

TAMM
EWO

JUN 3 1936

*Respectfully,*

Augustine Lonergan

U.S.S.

ack 7-3-36 efe

EFE:RD
61-7398-96

RECORDED

July 3, 1936

Honorable Augustine Lonergan,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have your informal memorandum of June 19, 1936 referring for my consideration, the letter of Dr. B. C. Marantz of Stamford, Connecticut dated June 18, 1936 in which he makes inquiry relative to an investigation of the activities of the so called "Black Legion".

Inasmuch as the activities of the organization referred to by Dr. Marantz do not appear to constitute the violation of any Federal Law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I have advised Dr. Marantz that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I am therefore returning herewith for your file the letter of Dr. Marantz, together with the circular attached thereto, and a copy of my reply to him.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure 1134464

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ranshman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 13 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPY - rd

June 18th 1936.

Hon. Augustine Lonergan,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Lonergan;

I take the liberty of calling your attention to the enclosed circular which was handed to me on the street and want to take this occassion to inquire whether there is any investigation pending this most disgraceful so call "Black Legion", which should never be allowed to breathe the air of this great country of ours. I am not an anarchist and far from being a communist. Neither can the Socialist party claim any of my votes; but I'll be darned if a fellow isn't driven to extremes by the existence of such a menace. It reminds one of the book written by Sinclair Lewis; "It can't happen here". One must certainly take his hat off to that great writer whose predictions are short of that of a prophet and who has an uncanny sense of judging the human race.

It seems to me that our political fathers are turning a deaf ear to it; is it because of the coming elections or because of the pending adjournment of Congress? It seems to me to be international in scope. Is there any talk about it in Washington? There is some talk about the Liberty League and William Randolph Hearst being behind this scandallous affair.

Hoping to receive your reply and thanking you I am,

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ B. C. Marantz, M.D.

65 South Street,
Stamford, Conn.

P.S. - This sheet as you will notice was printed in one of our main cities; New Haven.

# Unmask The Black Legion!

# Unite Against Reaction and Fascism

## *To The People:*

Startli g revelations have taken place these last few days! Ah organization of night riders, vigilantes, murderers, bombers, and arsonists have been exposed. In Wayne County, Michigan, this organization had its beginnings and numbered thousands of members. However, it claims to be a NATIONAL MOVEMENT WITH BRANCHES IN CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS AS WELL. IT IS THEREFORE A STATE AND NATIONAL MENACE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY.

The "Black Legion" is blood brother to the Ku Klux Klan, of Hitler in Germany, and Mussolini in Italy.

The "Black Legion" murdered dozens of men. One was a W.P.A. worker—a Protestant who was married to a Catholic girl. He opposed the Black Legion. It is claimed that the Black Legion burned Father Coughlin's Church. It is claimed that the Black Legion was responsible for killing a worker in Lincoln Park, Michigan, who was a firm believer in trade unionism.

The "Black Legion" is ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-CATHOLIC, ANTI-JEWISH, and ANTI-NEGRO. So is the Ku Klux Klan. So is Hitler in Germany. Last week, Hitler arrested 50 nuns and friars—and is sending them to concentration camps together with Socialists, Communists, Jews, and trade unionists.

The "Black Legion" was preparing to set up an open reactionary, fascist dictatorship in America. It was going to smash and wipe out DEMOCRACY.

How does it come about that Republican candidates for office in the State of Michigan SPOKE BEFORE BRANCHES OF THE BLACK LEGION?

How does it come about that McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, a Republican—SIGNED A MEMBERSHIP CARD IN THIS SINISTER, MURDEROUS OUTFIT?

The facts and connections of this murder gang are so alarming, that ALL WORKERS, FARMERS, MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, CREED OR POLITICAL VIEWS, MUST BE AWAKENED TO THE DANGERS THAT BESET US!

These Hitlerite storm troops are a menace to all liberty-loving people. There is no doubt that these dupes who bought a black gown and skull cap for $7.50 (cost 75 cents) were being used as tools by higher ups. WE MUST DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT WERE THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE BLACK LEGION AND THE OPEN-SHOP MULTI-MILLIONAIRE AUTO BARONS? Who are the financial backers of this fascist movement in America?

like the Black Legion, stand for destruction of the movement. They, like the Black Legion, stand for pression of all freedom of speech, press, and assemb They, like the Black Legion, stand for racial and reli hatred. They and the Black Legion are plotting to se a Fascist dictatorship in the United Sates. KNOW FATHER BY THE CHILD!

These are the real Night Riders, the organizers financial backers of budding American fascism! And political party is the same as that of the Black Legion: Republican Party of Landon and Knox and Vanden and Hoover.

We must be ever vigilant! THE PRICE OF LIBER IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE, said the immortal Tho Jefferson. We must be ON GUARD constantly.

### DEMAND ACTION BY ROOSEVELT, CUMMINGS AND CONGRESS

Demand the Roosevelt administration use the Bil Rights to protect the minorities against whom the B Legion has directed its terror.

Demand that Roosevelt set Attorney General C mings and J. Edgar Hoover into action against the nappers and murderers of the poor.

Instead of wasting $50,000 investigating the people's movement for the Townsend Plan (old age p sions) the greatest need of the moment is to expose bef the world the Black Legion—its murderous activities, supporters! Demand an immediate Congressional investi tion and action by the Department of Justice against murder band who is operating in fifteen to twenty- states.

We, the Communist Party, call upon all people, Prot ant, Catholic, Jewish, and Negro workers to UNITE DEFEAT REACTION!

We urge all labor and progressive organizations to se immediately resolutions to President Roosevelt, Attorn General Cummings and to Congress demanding fede action.

Defeat the Landons-Hearst-Liberty Leaguers who wou do legally what the Black Legion is trying to do illegall

WIPE OUT RACE HATRED, ANTI-SEMITISM, AN RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES!

UNITE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS!

Smash the Black Legion! Expose its backers! Unite build a people's movement against fascism and war—bu the FARMER-LABOR PARTY!

KFL:EHG
61-7398-97

June 27, 1936.

RECORDED

Mrs. Ethel Abell,
1508 West Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 19, 1936, advising that for many years you have been tormented by a group of persons who you believe may be connected with the Black Legion, and requesting that this Bureau furnish you adequate protection against these persons.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the persons to whom you refer are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

The matter appears to be one of purely local nature and therefore solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials of the State of Indiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 29 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Indianapolis

ack Judd 6/27/36
E 72

Indianapolis Ind
June 1 1936

J. Edward Hoover,
State Justice Office
Washington D.C. 61-7398-97

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 30 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 22 1936 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir -
I was writing to you so as to inform you of some persons that I believe to be connected with the Black Legand night riders. I have been pestered for a good many years by them and have lived in torment by them and their followers at all times day and night am never rid of somone to pester & torment my

mind; what I want to say is this, that I believe Dan Abell my former Husband is at the Bottom of it, he has vowed he would kill me and he has tried to a good many times. he has made a good many trips to my House throu out the years we have been seperated at night and tried to lure me out, he tells me that I am on the spot that the night riddors will get me, some of the things that my pesterers do

are as follows, swings
self over Roof sticks out
Glass or screen whoo
ever is in window,
allways has some one
to move in neighbors to
me Thoo Lares down my
Fences or Throughs a
Ball or rocks through
The windows and Posters
me most Every way they
can Think of, I have
called The Police Somany
Times Thoo They tell me
They are tired of me
calling Them, The Police
never find The ones
Thoo do The dirty work
They are in The Clear

by the time the Police
get there, I have reported
them more times that
I no to juvinile Officers
it does no good, I have
reported them to School
principales it does no good
that is why I believe
there are a gang of them
fauding against me
I married this man Alan
Abell in 1912 I have
stood God now what
every sence, but it
seems to me it has
been worse sence 1919
a man that Borded at
my House in 1921 passed
out of this life supposed

To have Killed Him Self
I was in a dying Condition
at That Time my self
some one said I was Poison
or doped when I was in
That condition a good
many Strange men
come They claimed I
did not no who I was
They said The people that
raised me was not my
parents They acted like
They was taking my finger
prints I Guess They did.
different Strange men
at different times come
There They compelled
me To sign papers made
me sign Them when

I was in a dying condition
And could not even see
what I was signing
They said some of the
papers was money coming
to me and I would have
to sign before I could get
it, And the others they
said was names of witness
They claimed I was then
said they wanted to com-
pare it with their hand
write to see which one
of them I was, others
came in and told me
of things I should of
done or said, things
that I never did do or say
some of those men

claimed to b state men
they said uncle Sam
send them. Others claimed
to be Gangsters they made
threats on me and my
family some of them did.
there are to much of it
for me to write in one
letter a neighbor woman
by the name of Ella
Williams she now lives
at 1430 aster st Indianapolis Ind she
came with most of those
strange men I thought
she brought them there
that also is a part of
it I do not understand
she also now my

Former Husband Mitchell
here are some of the
reasons I could not live
with him, he would
spend days at a time with
bad women lay around
saloons drunk try most
of the time when he
was with me to kill me
made a nervous wreck out
of me he told me that
he poisoned his first
wife, he said he killed
a negro he used to put
himself to sleep with
chloroform, be cause he
could not sleep otherwise
they would send strange
men around my House

to do their Rattling about
2 or 3 years ago a stranger
man come to my House
I opened the door he come
in and said he was a state
man that uncle sam send
him he pulled out papers
out of a bag to try to convince
me. I told him I was not
interested I asks him what
he was there for he wanted
to stay all night but did
not have the money to pay
room rent I told him I
could not keep him. I
asks him who he was
he said he was Dave
Chappell said he
gone. Readings of

Effie Reyes Spiritual
Church at 1426 Aster St
I said Spiritual reading
he said no you no need do
not come back and Talk
I ask him why she did
not keep him if he gon
reading there, when I
finly got him out and
he was on the Porch he
started telling who of my
Family would be the
next to die, he said to
me you no old man
Bill dont you, he said
I... I So I went in the
House and did not listen
to what he was going
to say.

11

I do wish you would find
some way to stop those
human Rats from pestering
me and doing damage to
my property been set fire
to it, I told the city police
also state police about Hon
Abell saying he killed his
first wife, the city police
that I called him me the
Ho, Ho and said they did
not want him they said
to me now you would not
want him electrified
would you. I went to the
state police and told them
my tale of woe and one
of them said the short
guy said they did not

Wand Man Abell. he said
Man Abell was a friend of
his, time and again I have
told the Police, but of no
avail, so I can not help but
think that you have got
a set of might riding
Block begunnies here in
Indianapolis, pleaded By
J. H. Perkins a negro
Fortune teller who told
me several years ago that
he was going to get
me for Abell as since
me Ella Williams that
I was telling you about
had me go with her
to this Fortune Teller by
the name of J. H. Perkins

this was in the year of 1921

he then lived but does not now on Blake St right off of Indiana re he told me that Abell had me poisoned. he said I was dying. I went to a doctor he also told me I was dying. this J. H. Perkins he said he had been trying to get me for Abell and when he could not he he was killing me. I think he intend casing some kind of a black Jamah on me there are two things that I would like for you to do for me

one of them is to stop
those Human Rats
some way or other, and
find out for me for
sure if I am my self or
some body else

Signed

Mrs Ethel Tibell
1608 W. Ohio St,
Indianapolis,
Ind.

EAT:TMF

RECORDED 61-7398-98

June 17, 1936

Honorable William I. Sirovich,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of June 2, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 31, 1936 by Bertram Hopper of 112 West 61st Street, New York City. I have noted from your letter that Mr. Hopper claims to be in possession of information regarding the activities of the Black Legion and other alien forces. I regret to advise you that because of a complete absence of any indication of a violation of a Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau on the part of members of the Black Legion, no investigation can be conducted by this Bureau into the operations of that organization. A careful review of Mr. Hopper's letter fails to disclose any evidence indicating a violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction and accordingly, I am unable to take any action with reference to his letter. I would suggest to you that if Mr. Hopper possesses information concerning the illegal activities of aliens within the United States, he bring his information to the attention of the officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The letter from Mr. Hopper which accompanied your letter is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831435

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Gaus
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Carter
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 19 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

WILLIAM I. SIROVICH, N. Y., CHAIRMAN
FRITZ G. LANHAM, TEX.
BRASWELL D. DEEN, GA.
THOMAS O'MALLEY, WIS.
MATTHEW A. DUNN, PA.
CHARLES J. COLDEN, CALIF.
CHARLES KRAMER, CALIF.
J. BURWOOD DALY, PA.
J. HARDIN PETERSON, FLA.
GRAHAM A. BARDEN, N. C.
JOHN L. MC CLELLAN, ARK.
FRANK W. BOYKIN, ALA.
WM. B. [illegible]
RANDOLPH PERKINS, N. J.
CLARENCE J. MC LEOD, MICH.
FRED A. HARTLEY, JR., N. J.
L. C. ARENDS, ILL.
RALPH E. CHURCH, ILL.
CHARLES F. RISK, R. I.

R. T. BUCKLER, MINN.
THOS. R. AMLIE, WIS.

EDWIN FAIRFAX NAULTY, CLERK

# House of Representatives U. S.

## Committee on Patents

Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

June 2, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief, Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

A few days ago I was interviewed by Mr. Betram Hopper whose letter I am inclosing to you. He has advised me that he has in his possession secret information regarding the work of the Black Legion and other alien forces that are at the present time at work against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. I thought you would be rendering a commendable service if you would request one of your representatives in the City of New York to send for Mr. Hopper and see what information he has to give to you that might be utilized by your Department.

With every good and kind wish to you, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

William I. Sirovich

William I. Sirovich

Check w/ Mr. Ask 6-17-36 Mr. [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-98

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
22 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 26 1936

TAMM TWO

SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

WILLIAM I. SIROVICH, N. Y., CHAIRMAN
FRITZ G. LANHAM, TEX.
BRASWELL D. DEEN, GA.
THOMAS O'MALLEY, WIS.
MATTHEW A. DUNN, PA.
CHARLES J. COLDEN, CALIF.
CHARLES KRAMER, CALIF.
J. BURWOOD DALY, PA.
J. HARDIN PETERSON, FLA.
GRAHAM A. BARDEN, N. C.
JOHN L. MC CLELLAN, ARK.
FRANK W. BOYKIN, ALA.
WM. B. [illegible]
RANDOLPH PERKINS, N. J.
CLARENCE J. MC LEOD, MICH.
FRED A. HARTLEY, JR., N. J.
L. C. ARENDS, ILL.
RALPH E. CHURCH, ILL.
CHARLES F. RISK, R. I.

R. T. BUCKLER, MINN.
THOS. R. AMLIE, WIS.

EDWIN FAIRFAX NAULTY, CLERK

# House of Representatives U. S.

## Committee on Patents

Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

June 2, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief, Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

A few days ago I was interviewed by Mr. Betram Hopper whose letter I am inclosing to you. He has advised me that he has in his possession secret information regarding the work of the Black Legion and other alien forces that are at the present time at work against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. I thought you would be rendering a commendable service if you would request one of your representatives in the City of New York to send for Mr. Hopper and see what information he has to give to you that might be utilized by your Department.

With every good and kind wish to you, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

William I. Sirovich

William I. Sirovich

Check w/ Mr. Ask 6-17-36 Mr. [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-98

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
22 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 26 1936

TAMM TWO

copy - r

112 West 61st Street,
New York City, N. Y.,
May 31, 1936.

Hon. William I. Sirovich,
14 C.D. New York, N.Y.

My Dear Congressman:-

No doubt you will recall me. I am Betram Hopper, the man who had the courage to fight the Republican Organization in the 14 C.D. New York, in 1926. I was a candidate in the Republican Primaries against the Hon. Nathan D. Perlman. I was defeated at the primary election.

On the plea of Mr. Charles Dewey Hillies, I withdrew my independent petitions for Congress in the 14 C.D. New York. I have in my possession, communications from the Hon. Ruth Pratt, Hon. Richard Lawrence, Charles Dewey Hillies and other outstanding Republicans of that day. All, if you please, telling me what a noble thing I did in withdrawing my petitions in the interest of Party harmony. However, notwithstanding these complimentary messages, after your election in 1926, I was read out of the Republican Party in New York County. I still have many friends within the ranks of the G.O.P.

I supported Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was elected President of the United States. I am an enrolled Democrat residing at 112 West 61st Street, New York City, in the 17 C.D. of New York. I do not belong to any political club. I am not interest in politics locally. But I am interested in good Government. I am especially desirous of protecting the good name of my President, the Hon. Franklin DeLano Roosevelt, against the snipers. While I am not in accord with everything the Administration is doing, nevertheless, when I know of wrong doings, I believe it my duty to first, report these overacts to the proper Authorities. If action is not taken within a reasonable period of time, then my only alternative would be to look to the press for justice.

On May 22nd, last past, I reported certain matters pertaining to Suffolk County to the Hon. Almon G. Rasquin, Collector of Internal Revenue of the 1st District of New York. I also reported this matter to the Hon. Leo Hickey, Federal District Attorney

612398-48

of the Eastern District of New York. Mr. Hickey turned me over to his first Assistant, Mr. O-Dougherty. I spent the entire day in the Brooklyn Federal Building. Finally, D.A. O'Dougherty, suggested that I report my matter to the F.I.B. at their New York Office, located at Room 607, in the new Federal Building, New York. This I have done. I reported on May 22nd, to Mr. Walter Murphy, Special Agent, in charge of the F.I.B. Mr. Murphy referred me to the WPA Bureau, at 641 Washington Street. I proceeded to 641 Washington Street, at about 4:30 P.M. on the day of May 22nd, 1936, and interviewed on the second floor of this building, Mr. C.D. Crockett, a Special Attache, of the WPA. Mr. Crockett, listened attentively to my story and said I would hear from him again on the 25th of May. I did not hear from Mr. Crockett on the 25th of May, so I again called upon Mr. Crockett on May 25th, around 11 o'clock P.M. Mr. Crockett then stated, he did not have jurisdiction in my matter, and turned me over to a Mr. Hosea, who, in turn made an appointment for me, with Mr. Thomas Cullen, Chief Investigator, of New York State, of all WPA Projects. I visited Mr. Cullen's Office at 265 West 14th Street, New York, N.Y. on the 25th inst., around 12 noon. I was greeted very friendly by Mr. Cullen, who turned me over to an assistant by the name of Smith. Mr. Smith, listened to what I had to say. He promised to get in touch with me on Wednesday, May 27, 1936, but he did not do so. So, about 2 P.M. on the day of May 27th, I called Mr. Smith, at Watkins 98181 and Smith told me that he could not do anything on my matter, as yet, because Mr. Cullen, the Chief of his Bureau, was in Albany, on business. However, he said I would hear from him without fail on Monday, June 1st.

My record with the Federal Government is one that I am proud of. I investigated the Reich-Ash S.D.A. Permit during 1923 or 1924. I presume the report of this Investigation is still on file in the old files of the Pro. I. A. & C. Bureau, at Washington, D. C. Dr. James Duran, former Prohibition Commissioner, well knows the type of Reports that Hopper rendered in connection with his duties. Former Attorney (Assistant) General, William Donovan, knows about Bertram Hopper and why the Bosses tried to take my position from me. I resigned from the Prohibition Unit in utter disgust sometime during the early or latter part of 1927.

I have performed various phases of investigative work for many years. I am versatile and understand machinery, construction work, farming, also the Civic Structure of my Government. I am handy as a Rigger and I can also sail a boat. I am generally useful from a Porter to an Executive. I am a World War Veteran and an Organizer and Charter Member of the Greenwich Village Post New 18 of the American Legion of New York County. I also was selected as a Delegate to the First Legion Convention held at the

Pennsylvania Hotel sometime during 1920 or 1921. I was elected as an alternate to the Republican State Convention in 1922. I was a former President of the Fifth Ward Corporation of Center Moriches, New York, County of Suffolk. I was a Charter Member of the Moriches Chamber of Commerce. I am a 32nd degree Mason, also a former member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Past Vice-Commander and Executive Member of Greenwich Village Post No. 18 of the American Legion. I had charge of the outdoor meetings during the Harding Campaign of 1920 from the Battery to 14th Street, New York City. Associated with me, was Mr. Thomas O'Shield, a sympathizer with the Irish cause for Freedom. My record of public accomplishments speak for itself.

I do not seek a temporary appointment with Mr. Edgar Hoover's forces of the F.I.B. But Mr. O'Doughtery, Assistant D.A. of the Eastern District, suggested that I offer my services to my Country for a temporary period of ninety days. I agreed I would be willing to accept such an appointment, provided, I new an honest effort would be made to clean up the rotten conditions existing today in Suffolk County, New York.

In 1924, I was squeezed out of business in Center Moriches, by sinister forces, which I believe are again operating in this Country. I consider my first service and duty as to my President and my Country. I love my Country and I am willing to die for it. I have but one flag, and it waves for Freedom, Free Religious Belief, and the protection of every race, regardless the color of their skin. My lineage goes back to the days of Bowling Green. My forbears were early Dutch Settlers. The Hopper Stringer Mott lineage is available at the New York Public Library, 42nd Street, Fifth Avenue, New York. I am an individual thinker. No one carries me in their vest pocket. My patriotism is not for sale. May I submit the following references as to my character, integretiy and general reliability:

Monsigner Robert Keegan of Catholic Charities
Colonel Francis R. Stoddar former State Supt. of Insurance, N.Y. 52 Bwy.
Hon. Thomas F. McAndrews, Dearborn Apartments, West 55th St., N.Y.C.
Father Ryan, Blessed Sacrament Church, West 71st St., New York.
Father Delaney, St. Vernon's Church, West 14th St., New York.
Father Conlan, St. Paul's Church, Congress and Court St., Hyde., N.Y.
Major Henry Curran, now a City Magistrate of New York.
Hon. William Feiett, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York.
Edward Carpel, 285 Madison Ave., New York

Mr. Dave Edwards, President of the East End Democratic Club, Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Andrew Havens, Town Clerk, Center Moriches, New York.
Mr. Frank Baldwin Member of the District 32 School Board of Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Peter Drivas, Proprietor of Center Moriches Candy Kitchen, Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Lucas, Secretary, Suffolk County Trust Co., Riverhead, New York.
Mr. Charles [illegible], Southampton Lumber Corp., East Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. William Byrne, Yaphank, Long Island.
Mr. Jack Smythe, Southampton, L.I.
Mr. John Collins, Gas & Oil Dealer, of Easthampton, L.I.
Mr. Anton Diebold of Wading River, L.I.
Mr. Nute Swanson, East Quogue, L.I.
Seeger Refrigator Company, 25th St. 4th Avenue, New York City
New York and Queens Electric Light Company, Bridge Plaza, Long Island City, New York.
Center Moriches Garage, Center Moriches, L.I.
The Hon. Jacob H. Miller, Justice of the Peace, East Moriches, L.I.
Hon. Joseph Kelley, Justice of the Peace, Riverhead, L.I.
Theodore Sherry, South Jamesport, L.I.
Mr. James Albin, Mattituck, L.I.
Capt. Brooks, Greenport, L.I.
Mr. George Meyer, East Sayville, L.I.

I presume I have given a sufficient number of references. As far, as I know, most of the people given, are responsible and worthwhile citizens. All I ask of them, is, to tell the truth about me as they found me. Nothing more or nothing less. I have not interviewed any of the above-mentioned references in advance of this communication. Neither do I intend to interview anyone concerning my record. If it is the honest desire of the present administration to clean up the nasty mess, I am willing to help in any capacity, where my services may prove of value to the interested parties. Thank you,

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Bertram Hoppe

EFE:TD

June 20, 1936

RECORDED

61-7398-99

Mr. Paul R. Burlew,
Secretary,
Harvester Local #57,
United Automobile Workers of America,
Box 187,
New Haven, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 15, 1936, addressed to the Attorney General and referred to this Bureau, in which you request that an appropriate investigation be conducted in regard to the criminal activities on the part of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in the premises. The activities of this organization appear to be purely local in nature and, therefore, solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate local law enforcement officials.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 22 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

cc-Indianapolis

United Automobile Workers of America

C. R. SHROCK, President
P. R. BURLEW, Secretary
New Haven, Indiana

~~FEDERAL LABOR UNION NO. 18776~~

G. SCHOOLE
Secretary-Treasu
New Haven, Ind

Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 15, 1936

Hon Homer Cummings.
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

38759

JUN 16 1936
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Sir:-

The members of Local 57 of the United Automobile Workers of America respectfully request that the Department of Justice enter into the investigation of the Black Legion.

From all the information we have received relative to this organization we believe it to be a menace to our present form of government and would like to see it stamped out completely.

61-1398-

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 25 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVE
JUN 23 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF

Respectfully yours
Paul R. Burlew Sec
Harvester Local # 57 of the
United Automobile Workers of A.

TWO

Box 157, New Hav
Ind

6/20/36

JEH:JDD

June 24, 1936.

Time - 3:55 P.M.

38758

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion

Colonel Gates telephoned and stated that he had received an inquiry as to whether a Black Legion letter had been sent to Judge Hunsicker of Akron. I stated that I knew nothing about this. Colonel Gates stated that he had referred the request to the Post Office Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-2398-100

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 25 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 25 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EFE:VTL
62-7398-101

June 30, 1936.

38757

Mrs. [redacted]
[redacted] Ohio.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 18, 1936, furnishing information relative to certain suspicious activities on the part of your husband, who you indicate may be connected in some official capacity with the Black Legion, and requesting that appropriate action be taken by this Bureau relative to this organization.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in the premises. The matter appears to be one solely for the consideration of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Ohio.

However, your courtesy in referring this matter to me for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Lupo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 1 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc-Cleveland

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7358-101
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 25 1936 P.M.
JUL 2 1936

J. Edgar Hoover
Dept of Justice

Sir: Since I wrote you
was sure a few weeks ago
I believe I have found out
what "it" all means
my husband brought me
newspapers of the accounts
of the Black Legion doings
and as I read it I un-
derstand many of the things
he has told me in the past
year. I asked him to let me
join the B.L. too, and he
said he would rather see me
dead. He said man who
had gotten in in such a way would
give all they possessed to be
out. That it was all sin

and I could see at the rate they had driven him for the past few weeks he would not stand up to it much longer. But they were pledged to stop at nothing even death. After reading newspaper accounts I understand why he joined the National Rifle Association and why he tried to get into other organizations.

I know there is an awfull force driving him.

I begged of him to do as Dr. Clark has done, tell all he knows, but he says they are fools as they will all get the electric chair or life.

Dr. said the leaders of this terrible organization by stated at one time he was an officer in the Ku Klux Klan

said [illegible] "I believe that is how he got entangled. (Also a Black Smith)
I believe from what he tells me that he sees unlawful deeds done night after night and is forced to take part in them for fear of his life. He once told me of being in a car (in another City) with three other men and said the driver tried to get a certain man at a street crossing but didn't didn't quite complete the accident"
I know from the appearence of his shoes and clothes that he spends much of time in the woods, swamps and I believe that is where they meet for orders. He says

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
and will drive all the way
one end of town several
times and then leave by
the opposite direction.
(He suspects every women
in the house of being
G-men) He says he does
enjoy seeing some of these
"Big Guns" back down and
show how "yellow" they
are. Says he is going to
find a new room again
soon as people in present room-
ing house are getting to in-
quisitive. A week ago he told
me to tell a brother of mine
to "watch his step" that he had
saved him once.
My brother has charge of W.P.A.
work and on inquiry I find
he has found it necessary

to the "range rider" sup.
It appears that is what the
members I am afraid of foul
play. My brother has been
trying to get permission from
the Police Chief to carry a
revolver.
I believe these members are pledged
forced to do everything even
murder, and from what I've
learned they are only a bunch
of hooded daugsters.
He told me a week ago that
he now has men under his
command and some of them
were always ready to look
after his interest, that they
stop at nothing if necessary.
Mr. Hoover, should such an
organization exist and be al-
lowed to go on doing their unlawful
work? And who must we

[illegible] to whom I even of
[illegible] who "enforce" the law
belong.

June 21, '36.

Saw him tonight, said he
left town last evening, drove
many miles to a distant
City and met other members
and performed a "duty" Told me to turn on Police news on Radio
Seemed very nervous
Said he had slept 2 hrs
in his car today on his trip
back. Got back to Warren
this evening. Again he brought
me papers of accounts of
the B.L. Told me that the
reported membership was
"not a drop in the bucket"
to the actual number.
I saw him write out orders
to "Angels" and leave them
down town. I don't know

Mr. Cox is.

He said he was going to be transferred to Youngstown soon, to take charge of that end but would still work at the Republic, and down back and forth to work.

Sunday if his trips were followed for a time, much could be learned about this terrible B.2. I think they know he has been watched there is why they are moving him.

I think you will forgive me for taking so much of your valuable time, but in Godd's name help rid the Country of these terrible Hordes of Gangsters.

Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] C.

P.O. Box 1766
Cincinnati, Ohio

HDH:BOO

June 24, 1936

Post Office Inspector in Charge,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter under date of June 23, 1936, transmitting an envelope postmarked at Akron, Ohio, June 20, 1936, addressed to Judge Hunsicker, Domestic Relations Court, Akron, Ohio, together with the enclosure, which consists of words cut from a newspaper and pasted on brown paper reading as follows:

"Judge Oscar A. Hunsicker. This is to notify you that during the last two months we have every cause to feel aggrieved and outraged. According to our records we find you have neglect your duty as Judge in the case of Boyes vs. Boyes. We demand new trial to be held June 24 at 4:30. 10 lives are threatened over failure in law. Lets see the other side of the case. Who witnessed the truth. Was there fraud. Check the records- duties of attorneys and witness. We are forced to the law. Every American citizen duty to a fair trial. Final notice. The victim. Wife. Mrs. L. Boyes. No alibi. Silent. June 25. Black Legion".

A review of this letter indicates that it does not fall within the provisions of the extortion statute coming under the jurisdiction of this Bureau, and the letter and envelope are consequently being returned to you herewith.

I am also returning herewith the note from Judge Hunsicker to the Postmaster at Akron, Ohio, which was transmitted with your letter.

Very truly yours,

JUN 29 1936
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7325-102
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 26 1936 P.M.
DEPT. OF JUST.

Special Agent in Charge

cc Cleveland
cc Bureau
Encls.

ONE TWO

FILE

(Extortion Letter)

dear sir

we the black legion have suceeded in organizinf here with a good faithful membership it is the intention of the membership to use a razor blade on the throats of any official making trouble in any form against any body for nonpayment of taxes of any kind, personal, land, auto, sales, etc by suit, arrest, or dexertising their land etc for sale, for taxes, now forget it all, cancel all interests on taxes so people can pay back taxes,,

Yes we are [illegible] e cranks, bolshevios, and murderers,

we have our both eyes on you

Post Office Box 4907
Jacksonville, Florida
July 1, 1936.

Mr. L. G. Jones
Post Office Inspector
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of June 23, 1936, with which you transmitted a communication addressed to Max Collector, Clyde Simpson, Jacksonville, Florida, and mailed at Jacksonville June 12, 1936.

This has been discussed with the office of the United States Attorney at Jacksonville and the opinion has been given that the mailing of the letter does not constitute a violation of the extortion statutes which could be successfully prosecuted. Accordingly, no investigation will be undertaken by this office.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Nathan
Special Agent in Charge.

RBN:C

Cc: Bureau (Enclosure)
SAC, Jacksonville. (Enclosure)

61-7398-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 6 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

EFE:RD
~~61-7398-98~~

~~61-7398~~

July 3, 1936

Dr. B. G. Marantz,
65 South Street,
Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of June 18, 1936 addressed to the Honorable August[illegible] United States Senate, Washington, D. C., which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention. It is noted you make inquiry as to whether an investigation is presently pending in regard to the activities of the so called "Black Legion".

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws, and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. The facts contained in your communication, as well as in the enclosed circular have been carefully noted, but inasmuch as the activities of the "Black Legion" do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal Law, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in the premises.

Your courtesy in this matter, however, is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-New York City

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAIL
JUL - 3 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-7398-103
RECORDED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 9 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Nathan
Tolson
Harbourn
Clerk
Clegg
Coffey
Edwards
Gurnea
Harbourn
Hildebrand
Lester
Lewis
Mohr
Nichols
Quinn
Schilder
Schoen
Tamm
Tracy
Carson
Gandy

8

Sport Ada
July 2. 193

J. Edgar Hoover
(Washington D.C.

Dear Sir. In reply to a form letter to me you said there had been "no crime done" All right, now there has been "no crime done" On Christmas 1930 this band of out laws I'm continually harassed by. Tied my son Edwin S. Stimson (now 29) all night and tortured him till noon Christmas day. Fates worked it so I saw him with in 20 minutes after he was released (marks of bandages etc.) Some years ago, I think before the world War — a bank was robbed at Kaseltor, little town next of us (tho it was hushed — shushed) clues showed it was R. B. Hazelton, brothers from Rufus and [illegible] as I can remember they were [illegible] Nelson, E. E. (or Ola) Olson, B. Harry (one present Post Master) Jason [illegible] brothers in law.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-

JUL 16 1936

ENCLW

JUL 20 1936

TWO

U. F. Beymer and E. E. Olson is his
partner in the sheep business. The
two men own several stills. During
the bootleg days they made young
married people run those stills
so if any body was caught Olson
Turner would not have to take the
"rap" Well now I believe those stills
are running probably in the same
building the whisskey store — Feder
liquor store — is operated and sold
right out of the Federal liquor sto
R. B. Turner is a brother of Governor Turn
Governor of Iowa just a few years ba
Now I have no doubt this band — wh
I want to call them — threatened
then young people — both boys & girls
same as they did my [illegible] Just
ek there was gasolene poured in the
irrigation ditch leading to my
leading to kill the [illegible]

38756

## To Give Lecture

Rev. E. B. Turner of Honolulu, brother of Mayor R. B. Turner and Mrs. A. F. Beymer, who is spending several months in the United States, and who will arrive here this week from an eastern trip, will deliver a lecture "The Paradise of the Pacific," Sunday vening at the Methodist church at 8 o'clock, it was announced Wednesday by Rev. George G. Roseberry.

Rev. Turner will illustrate his lecture with special moving pictures taken on the Islands. He will show some of the scenic places in and around Honolulu and will describe life on the islands. The public will be welcomed.

61-7398-104

RBH:CDW

August 27, 1936.

61-7998 -105

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It is desired that an appropriate check be made through the War Department to determine whether there is in existence any record relative to the loss or theft of .45 Calibre Colt Automatic Pistol bearing serial number 251440. This weapon is of the 1911 model.

The Bureau should be advised direct the results of your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

AUG 27 1936

NOTHING RECEIVED
FROM THIS OFFICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio

July 31, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Re: BLACK LEGION NIGHT RIDERS
BULLET CLUB
Miscellaneous - ~~Confidential~~

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above captioned matter, please refer to the report of Special Agent C.E. Smith of this office, dated May 24, 1935, and to the letter of this office dated June 1, 1935, forwarding to the Bureau a .45 Colt Automatic Pistol on which the identifying numbers were obliterated, which numbers were subsequently developed and restored in the Bureau Laboratory, as covered by Laboratory Report #61-~~7098~~-5, and be advised that Mr. George T. Scheid of Lima, Ohio, on behalf of Mr. [redacted] from whom the said pistol was secured, has directed two communications to this office requesting a return of the said pistol to Mr [redacted]

In the Bureau Laboratory the serial number on this pistol was found to be 251440 and the inscription indicating that the said pistol was the property of the United States was developed thereon, to wit, the inscription reading "United States Property".

This office has advised Mr. Scheid that a communication is being directed to Mr. [redacted] with whom any future correspondence in connection with the said pistol will be had. Mr. Scheid in his letter indicates that he does not want to have to take the matter of the return of this pistol up with the authorities at Washington and suggests that the same be returned to Mr. [redacted] forthwith.

This office has directed a communication to Mr [redacted] at Lima, Ohio, a copy of which is attached hereto, advising him that in the event that he can produce bill of sale for this pistol, indicating a sale thereof either to himself or to the person from whom he purchased the said pistol, that appropriate consideration would be given to the matter of returning the same to him.

Very truly yours,

J.P. MacFARLAND,
Special Agent in Charge

JPM/lrl
Enclosure (1)

1 ENCL W

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 28 1936

AUG 3 1936

61-7398-10

1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio

July 31, 1956

Mr. [redacted]

[redacted]

Lima, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

This office has received two communications from Mr. George [redacted], relative to a .45 Colt Automatic Pistol, which you turned over to Special Agent C.R. Smith of this office at the request of Mr. [redacted] This pistol was traced through appropriate Government channels and it was determined that the said pistol was the property of the United States and consequently is being retained by the Government.

In the event that you have in your possession a bill of sale for this pistol, it is requested that you furnish this office with a copy thereof so that further consideration might be given to the matter of returning the pistol to you in the event that it was legitimately purchased by you from a person who was in lawful possession thereof. It will be necessary, however, before this pistol can be returned to you that the person from whom you purchased the same submit a bill of sale showing a purchase thereof.

Very truly yours,

J.P. MacFARLAND,
Special Agent in Charge

JPM/lrl
cc - Bureau

64-7398-105

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

PEF:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

July 31, 1936.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Bergman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

Time - 8:55 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. [redacted], connected with the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company of Clarksburg, West Virginia, telephoned Mr. Foxworth and said he wanted to report that last night, he was approached by a business man out there to join the Black Legion. He said he was very much surprised at this invitation, and thought the Department of Justice should know about it.

Mr. Foxworth went to some length to explain the limitations imposed upon the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, and told Mr. [redacted] that while we appreciated the interest which prompted his bringing this matter to our attention, there was no active investigation which we could conduct. Mr. Foxworth suggested that the matter be referred to the appropriate local authorities.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED & INDEXED.

AUG 6 1936

61-7378-106

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
TWO

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
August 7, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

This morning, Mr. Harry Colburn, chief investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit, Michigan, called me over the telephone and asked if I could come to Mr. McCrea's office this afternoon for the purpose of securing some information which they had in connection with the Black Legion which he thought might interest us and bring the situation within Federal jurisdiction. I anticipated that this was primarily for the purpose of making it possible for the newspapers to run headlines that a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had consulted with Mr. McCrea concerning the Black Legion and thus bring the Federal Government into it, and I therefore discreetly asked Mr. Colburn if he could come to my office with the facts that he had. He reluctantly agreed to do this and, upon calling at the Detroit Office, handed me three statements taken fro[redacted] Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 6, 1936.

These statements are enclosed herewith, as given to me, as I did not desire to take the time now to have typewritten copies made in the Detroit Office. It is respectfully requested that they be photostated and the Detroit Office supplied with copies for its file.

It might be mentioned here tha[redacted] a few days ago, wired Mr. Duncan McCrea, the Prosecuting Attorney at Detroit, stating that he had some confidential important information concerning the Black Legion. As a result of this telegram, Mr. McCrea had his investigator, Mr. Colburn, call him over the long distance telephone at Cincinnati and arrange for his appearance in Detroit for the purpose of giving whatever facts he might have in his possession.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-107

Mr. Colburn tells me that he felt the Government would be interested in Mr[redacted]s statement because of the mention of a gas bomb made by employees at the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland, and also the mention of the overthrow of the Government by force and violence.

TAMM TWGPW

FILE

According to Mr. Colburn and Mr. McCrea, who talked to me over the telephone, they have determined that there is an organization known as the Night Riders which is a sort of higher organization within the Black Legion, and it is possible that this is the organization referred to by Mr. [redacted] in his statements.

Mr. McCrea also told me over the telephone that his information was that Virgil Effinger at Lima, Ohio, had a scroll listing the names of the members of the Night Riders. Mr. Colburn, of course, wanted me to immediately arrange to have Effinger's house raided at Lima, Ohio, for the purpose of locating this scroll and the infernal machine mentioned by [redacted] He stated that they could secure no cooperation from law enforcing agencies in Ohio because they were all members of the Black Legion.

I explained to Mr. Colburn that there was some doubt in my mind as to whether the facts presented indicated any violation of a law over which the Bureau had jurisdiction and that I would promptly forward the information to Washington for appropriate study and advice.

Mr. Colburn and Mr. McCrea are rather anxious to receive prompt word as to what action we might take and I would appreciate immediate advice from the Bureau so that I might put these men at ease.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reinecke

H. H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

HHR:AM
3 enclosures

AIR MAIL—SPECIAL DELIVERY



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 2 of 3

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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3

MAT:MF
61-7398-10

RECORDED

August 12, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of August 7, 1936, transmitting copies of three statements taken fro[redacted]nder date of August 6, 1936 by Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea, pertaining to the alleged activities of the Black Legion, you are advised that copies of these statements have been forwarded to the Department with the request that I be advised what, if any, action is desired on the part of the Bureau.

In the absence of specific instructions, no investigation should be conducted by you in this matter.

I am returning herewith the original statements furnished with your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831249

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Jones
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 12 1936
P.M.
FBI - DETROIT

3

Statement of, taken in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney by Chief Investigator, Harry Colburn, August 6, 1936 at 10:45 a. in the presence of Charley Spare. Edna L. Barker, stenographer.

-0-

BY MR. COLBURN:

Q What is your address, Mr.

A Cincinnati, Ohio.

Q Mr. I am Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the prosecuting attorney's office. This is Mr. Spare, one of ou investigators and this is Miss Barker, a stenographer. I wa to ask you some questions relative to your offer of informat to this office in connection with the activities of the Blac Legion and one Virgil Effinger, its organizer at Lima, Ohio. Would you care to tell me what you know about it and what your experiences have been in this connection, starting from the time you first met him, Mr. Effinger, just tell it in yo own way and in continuity, if you can?

A On July 6th of this year I wrote Virgil Effinger a letter addressed to Lima, Ohio, asking among other things for infor tion relative to the organization known as the Black Legion of which I understood at the time he was one of its heads an answer to that letter Mr. Effinger replied under date of Jul to the effect that I should see him at his home, 1114 Harrison Avenue, in Lima, relative to same. I didn't immediately reply to the said letter and on July 16th I received a secon letter from the said Effinger again asking me to come to Lima and have a personal interview with him in regard to the Black Legion. On July 21st I went to Lima, Ohio on the Grey Bus Lines under their ticket No. 93796 and arrived there at 12:30 the same afternoon. I immediately went to his home, M Effinger as above stated at 1114 Harrison Avenue and for the

first time made the personal acquaintance of the said Effinger. At this time I had a personal interview with him in regards to the Black Legion. Effinger informed me that before he could go into the affair in detail as I desired, that I would first have to become a member of the organizat which I agreed to do and did go with him in his Ford V-8 to some miles east Elida, Ohio and was ushered into an old far house at this place where they were holding some of their meetings, to join the organization and took the oath or obl tion and was given a bullet, a symbol of membership in the While I was at this meeting place I asked if it was perfect safe, if there were any snoopers or spies that ever came ar so at the solicitation of Effinger a fellow named Crawford whom I understand has a soninlaw on the Detroit Police Forc brought forth a machine gun and told me that this was one o their main preventatives to keep snoopers and spies from approaching on their private property. After the obligatio and on the way back to Lima a Chevrolet sedan bearing a Michigan license, it was a tan Chevrolet, passed and the car in which I was riding we Effinger, Effinger noticed the license right away,-I took the obligation about twelve o'clock, we stayed there until about one o'clock in the morn that would be the 22nd,- he said he was of the opinion that occupants of this car were there to kidnap him and take him back to Michigan authorities where the said authorities had passed a standard reward of a thousand dollars payable to an that would get him into the State of Michigan. He flashed his headlights on and off three times and the car in front under license No. EJ 119 Ohio and the car in the rear immediately stopped to see what he wanted. He acquainted th occupants of these two cars with his suspicions and they immediately set out to overtake this car from Michigan and

so a short ways down the road and at the point of drawn guns and the display of badges these Black Legionnaires in ed its occupants they were officers of the law looking for bandits in Michigan and was headed that way and they proce to search their personal baggage, rifle their pockets, goi through their personal papers and after satisfying themsel that they were not from the Michigan Law Authorities they p mitted them to proceed on their way. Later at Effinger's in Lima on this same day the question came up about killi their own members and I asked him if it would not be betty if there had to be anybody gotten if it wouldn't be better get the real enemies fighting in opposition to the Black Legion principles. He then told me that line of talk was up his alley and then he showed me a square mechanism with metal tube affair and that he claimed was invented by work at the United States Government poisonous gas factory at Edgewood, Maryland. It had a time clock arrangement which explained could be set for certain time such as a Jewish National celebration - one thing was it would have to be in the winter time when the windows of these Jewish synagogue would be all closed so that the gas could not escape, and h you can readily see that we can pretty well exterminate the Jews at one click, it will only take a few hundred loyal me this cause and a few of these machines to do this. He also showed me a typewritten list of what he said was their Jewi Synagogue in the United States and their location and monti the fact that these machines would only have to be used in centers where the Jewish people were largely congregated in order to be effective.

Q While you were talking to Effinger you told me that the sub of the Detroit situation came up and that Effinger told you they were out to get McCrea and that they were having affid

drawn up by members in Detroit who sa , or were supposed to have seen Mr. McCrea take his obligation and that he also t you if it was the last thing he ev did he would not tell Blankety Blank so and so, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Now then you also said that he asked you to make out some s of an affidavit, is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q Just what did he say to you in connection with the affidavi he wanted you to make out, did he say why it was so necessa

A He said it was essential to produce in Court evidence to th effect that McCrea was a member of the Black Legion to disp McCrea's statement that he was not a member and said that h needed some affidavits from men of my type that he consider have weight and bearing in the courts to verify McCrea's me ship in said organization. I asked him if it would be a s statement or just a signed state ent, he said it would neco have to be sworn. I told him that brought up the matter of perjury of which I had a little knowledge and at this time deferred ~~the~~ talking any further about this affidavit until out next closed meeting a week hence from this time.

[illegible], [illegible] in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney [illegible]
[illegible] to, [illegible] Southern, August [illegible], 1[illegible] [illegible] p.m.
[illegible] of Amelia Sperd. Edna L. Parker, stenographer.

-0-

Q [illegible] as a separate statement from the one which you [illegible] this morning, I should like to ask you a few questions [illegible] concerning yourself and your own activities, do you care to answer them?

A Well, if I see no reason why I shouldn't as long as it isn't extremely objectionable as to being personal.

Q What is your profession Mr. [illegible] or your means of earning livlihood?

A Well, my profession and means of earning a livlihood has been varied, I have been an organizer of things, of the Klu Klux and other organizations of a like nature. I have been in [illegible] work as a Chair Store Manager; I have been in the apartment house business in California.

Q What one, if any of those professions have you followed in recent years or months?

A Apartment house business and management in California.

Q And what business are you engaged in at the present time in Cincinnati?

A I am unemployed at the present time.

Q Where was your original home?

A I am a native of Atlanta, Georgia.

Q Are you married? A I am married.

Q Do you have children? A No children.

Q And your folks, that is to say your near relatives are all [illegible] at Atlanta?

A In Atlanta, Georgia.

Q What relatives do you have in Atlanta, Georgia?

A Mother, sisters, various nieces and nephews, my father is deceased.

Do you have any relatives in Los Angeles, California?

A No relatives in the state of California.

Q What your purpose in communicating with Mr. Effinger on the Black Legion to again resume your organization activities if the Black Legion met with your approval?

A It was, that was my purpose in contacting them.

Q Because of being unemployed at the present time you felt that you might resume organization activities and thereby make a living?

A That is right, at the same time be using my experience to advantage.

Q and your only purpose in exposing what you know of Mr. Effinger and the Black Legion and its activities is because you feel that it is an organization that is dangerous and has no place in the scheme of things in this country and that you want to do your share in helping to eliminate this outfit?

A It is, that is my entire purpose. I would like to keep the rank and file of the present members and those that might be members of the Black Legion in being led into what I believe serious personal trouble by being led by men like I am convinced this said Virgil Effinger is and while he will protect himself no doubt, he will cause other men that would be good citizens otherwise to get into serious personal trouble and if, by staying in this immediate territory I can further be of benefit to the proper exposé of this organization, I will be glad to do so.

Q Do you have any fear of any uprisings on the part of any members

A Not if I keep out of their back yards, away from where some radicals or irresponsible people might feel the desire of the leaders or exposex their little un-American playhouse.

[illegible]tatement of, taken in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney of [illegible] on August [illegible]th, 1936, at about 1:45 P. M., by [illegible], Chief Investigator, in the presence of Investigator [illegible] and [illegible] Stenographer.

-oOo-

Q Now, [illegible] you said that he, that [illegible] time-clock machine which was to be used for the expulsion of poi[illegible] was developed in the United States Government factory at [illegible],

A Edgewood, Maryland.

Q And that was developed by government employees?

A Yes.

Q Did he say whether or not those government employees who had develo[illegible] this apparatus were members of the Black Legion?

A No, he said that those inventors of this peculiar type of machine t[illegible] exterminate the Jews was developed by employees of the government a[illegible] Edgewood Poison gas factory by members of another organization who [illegible] some way co-related to the Black Legion, it was a superior organiza[illegible] that the certain members of the Black Legion was picked after they [illegible] done certain deeds to prove themselves worthy and was transferred t[illegible] higher type organization, that's what he told me.

Q Did he mention the name of this other organization?

A No, I asked him for it, he said he would give me that at a later da[illegible]

Q Then he made you understand that even though they were members of a[illegible] different type, or higher type of organization, that that organizat[illegible] a ~~[illegible]~~ part of subsidiary of the Black Legion?

A I took it that he meant that it was a more or less parent and super[illegible] organization and that the Black Legion itself was a subsidiary of t[illegible] organization.

Q Did he profess to have control over those particular members in the United States government factory?

A Through the executive offices in the other organization, I presume [illegible] Effinger himself, from what he told me, is a member of this superio[illegible] organization, radical organization.

Q [illegible] whether they were in a position to produce a number of [illegible] all over this country?

A Yes, he said that [illegible] and stated to me that [illegible] had the capitulation of the [illegible] in [illegible] largely on past and estimated past [illegible] take to extermination to a large extent or, as he stated it, [illegible] about a million in one shot, a million Jews in one shot, [illegible] supposed to be placed simultaneously in the different [illegible]

Did he make any particular reference as to [illegible] many Jews [illegible]

A Yes, he did, he said that they were the real serious [illegible] in this country, that the present President [illegible] being subverted by his Jewish advisors and mental [illegible] Morgenthau, and Sam Rosenman and Ben Cohen of this [illegible] or Jew or something in this state.

Q This state?

A Or Ohio maybe. Congressman Celler, Emanuel Celler, [illegible] New York, Celler is being one of their [illegible] and Frances Perkins was a Russian Jew, [illegible] name, she was working with Rosenman, [illegible] Jewish element was a real serious element against the [illegible] ideals of what he termed real Americanism, when they [illegible] exterminated that would automatically lessen the power of the [illegible] that the Jews were trying to give the Negro equal social and [illegible] equality, that we had women and men were freely associating in the [illegible] York nightclubs nightly, and he went on to say that the Jews in this country, that there was a certain number, let's see, about [illegible] soldiers killed in the world war and he named out of that [illegible] infinitesimal percentage that were Jews, that the Jews were profiting that out of the millionaires, made -- most millionaires were Jews, cause a war, the European world war, they had no nationality, they Americans, weren't French or, were internationally minded, and a [illegible]

past to subjugate the gentiles through the international conspi
hold on the Jesuits, Mr. Dr. [illegible] and a number of other prominent
Jews, they were over there, he showed me an oath purported to be ta
by these Jewish leaders to eventually subjugate the gentile identity
and he had this blood curdling oath and he claimed the Jews in that
organization took it, he also gave me a little booklet, a booklet o
a purported oath what the Catholics, Knights of Columbus take to pr
the American political arena -- situation.

Did he have any particular plan of action as against the Catholi
at Detroit.

Yes, well, he didn't but a fellow riding in the V-8, Effinger's V-8,
Fitzgerald and Effinger, who suggested that this winter when the
offices at Detroit quieted down that it was his suggestion that each
Black Legionaire kill at least two Negroes in some month this winte
he did, he sat there and told me, I said, yes, that will be fine
said I understand the population of the Negroes is ten per cent, Neg
and I said will it be generally effective to do that and he said if
Black Legion man will do it you will find it will be a big thing, of
course, he's a farmer, illiterate type, but it was my impression tha
Effinger's main fight right now, he expects to use the Black Legion
fighting him is against the Jews, that they are really the root of a
of our American evils.

What about the Catholic situation as far as he was concerned?

He mentioned the Catholics in regard to the political situation, boi
predominated within our present administration by Catholics, through
Jim Farley and his cohorts of Catholics, said that they are officeho
Catholics, Negroes and Jews were greater under this present administr
than they were under Hoover's administration and he called my attenti
the fact that I was from the south and was, no doubt, a Democrat and
the oath of obligation they ask you if you are willing to vote for a
political party that they deem more in sympathy with Black Legion
principles, that is in the one I took, they asked me if I was willing
take part in the lynching, I told them I might be in certain cases wh
it involved the virtue of a womanhood, or on very serious like charg

The fellow that gave me that part of the oath, he asked Effinger so
about it, he said that's not definite enough, Effinger said, yes, t
covers it, he answered it sufficiently if under certain circumstance
will take part in the lynching. Went on to say that the conditions
this country, in the United States, that they would eventually lead
to similar conditions in other foreign countries, he named Egypt th
ancient times there were 100% Caucasian -- white, until they got to
importing the black slaves for the white people until they got to
affiliating with them on sexual and social basis and brought about t
present conditions of Egypt. This country is getting to be just as
hospitals all over the country white women giving birth to mulattoes
all over this country, that he had evidence to that effect.

Q Did he say anything to you about some trouble that they anticipated
Cleveland, Ohio?

A. He did.

Q Similar to that trouble which they were having in Detroit?

A He did.

Q What did he say about that?

A That started when I asked Effinger why the Legion members didn't bur
or horsewhip the real -- what was considered the real enemies of the
Legion instead of gentiles and his own members and he answered that
of the hardheaded men in charge of local organization, such as Harve
Davis in Detroit, permitted those conditions and also he was expecti
the same, he had a man in charge at Cleveland who had also permitted
similar conditions as those in Detroit, was expecting sooner or late
that to be uncovered and would prove very embarrassing to the Black
Legion organization. I inferred from his statement in this regard th
the Black Legion had murdered and horsewhipped some of its members a
some citizens in and around Cleveland just as they were accused of d
in Detroit.

Q Did Mr. Effinger tell you about any other law enforcement officials i
Detroit, or vicinity, that they intended togot even with in addition
Mr. McCrea?

A No, he didn't say any other official, he mentioned the fact that Dayt

Doan was crazy, it would be proven so and would be sent to the asylu
soon after being sent there that he would be murdered for his opposi
Black Legion activities in Detroit. I told Mr. Spence that a few mi
ago, I thought of it in the other room. Said Payton Doan's life wou
be worth a Chinese penny, just as soon as this thing blew over, and
was confined and convicted, that his life wouldn't be worth a Chinese
penny, that they would certainly get him.

Q. What was the original purpose of ~~his~~ your communication with Mr. Effinge
regard to the Black Legion?

A My sole and only purpose for communicating with Mr. Effinger in rega
~~the Black Legion was to ascertain whether or not it was a worthy~~
worthy American organization that would ~~xx~~ yield permanent good to
America's institutions and traditions. I thought it possible that so
individual Legion members had gotten out of hand and violated their
obligation of membership and order and was acting contrary to its i
and its officials' teaching and if such traditions and ideals of the
~~had been thoroughly American, it was my desire to extend its activi~~
anywhere that I might but after a thorough investigation and having
initiated into its secrets and real intentions, the future motives,
became ~~xxx~~ thoroughly convinced that I wanted to have nothing to d
with it whatsoever.

Q Did Mr. Effinger explain to you the real purpose and the ultimate g
this order called the Black Legion?

A Yes, he said that it was the idea back of the Black Legion to re-es
real American traditions as intended by our founding forefathers wh
had been trampled upon by those various alleged anomlies as Morebefo
mentioned.

Q Did he discuss any plans with you whereby when their organization w
~~in a proper manner that they planned eventually to take over the~~
government?

A He told me that it would be according to his idea, it would be an o
matter to establish a Fascist or Nascist dictatorship, he mentioned
fact that Mussolini had only about one hundred thousand members who
seized the government of Italy and that the present government of G

under Adolph Hitler was started with two men and that by having men
strategic situations in this country and by seizing strategic point
he named to me, it would be a very easy matter to establish the sai
dictatorship and also inferred that he would be wearing the crown o
dictatorship and his shoes when this did eventually take place. He
inferred after he had seized the American government and become its
dictator that he would have to have men under him capable of retain
this said title for him -- position, and that I would be well taken
of in this and he said it was men just like you, Mr. that
what it's all about and are not afraid to act when the time comes, t
we need with us in this move.

Q Did he describe to you the manner in which they hoped to take over
strategic points and control of the government when the right time

A Yes, it was his idea to have sufficient affiliations with various m
plants and the army and navy and such like necessary subsidiaries o
strong-arm forces in order to do this.

Q Well, when he explained to you that the cause for the trouble in Hi
and the possibility of trouble in Cleveland was the responsibility
the few men in the organization who were allowing things to get boy
their control and then in the next breath talked about those plans
killing people of various denominations and creeds, didn't it seem
like blowing hot and cold on his part?

A It did, and I mentioned the fact to him and he explained it that th
~~[illegible]~~ through and that this happening at Detroit would be o
proved to be a big boomerang for them and from that point on they w
going to see that those things were not permitted to happen again,
the rank and file were not going to to be permitted to know the rea
motives and activities back of the Black Legion, that was going to
good lesson to them. He found out you couldn't trust too many men
actual knowledge of what was taking place.

Q Well, now, you say that you took your oath on the date mentioned i
statement in a little town not from from Lima?

A Out from Elida.

Q After returning from Elida and, by the way, that was the trip upon
Michigan car was stopped, wasn't it? -0-

A Yes.

Q Where did you go from that place? To Effinger's home?

A We went from there to a little restaurant on the square of Lima, c
the "Spot" which proved to be in reality a Spa; there many of the
Black Legionnaires got together, we had sandwiches and soft drinks
from there we went to 1114 Harrison Avenue, at Lima. Mr. -- the h
Mr. Effinger, and upon our arrival there we went into the basement
of the house where Effinger maintains his office, has his desk, he
me to reading a, some sort, I don't know what you call it, statem
"God Give Us Men" thing he has framed there, also referred me to a
on one side of his desk, showing Paul Revere alarming his early An
follows -- follow Americans -- of the impending danger and said th
was an organization in this country called the Paul Reveres, that
got some information about, they had the real American principles,
was sure I would believe in and want to know more about. I took f
this statement that he was also affiliated with said organization
member or otherwise.

Q Was there any discussion as to what your activities in the organizat
might be?

A Yes, it was plainly understood that I was to be in charge of a give
territory, embracing the city of Cincinnati, Louisville, Kentucky,
Indianapolis, Indiana and other cities and towns and that I would b
organizer control said territory with only himself to accoun
That he would see that I got every assistance and a sufficie
monetary return to enable me to live on a nice plane, not have to w
about my finances.

Q Did he at any time disclose to you the territory in which the Black
was operating at the present time?

A I asked him as to their numerical strength and he answered by sa
it was in many states, in some states under names other than the Bl
Legion, but he did not definitely give me any numbers as to members
actual territory in which they operated but led me to believe that
their organization and affiliated [illegible] they went [illegible] di

this time, or interest in the so-called Fatherland, he entered over not only continental territory of the United States but also have dealt or associated with governments and organizations that were thoroughly in sympathy with the Black Legion and its individual organizations.

Q What interest did he explain, would any foreign government have, in the principles of the Black Legion, which apparently were concerned only with Americans?

A Well, Effinger plainly told me that he admired Hitler and his Prussian Nazeist government, due to the fact that he had done a wonderful job curbing the activities of the Jews and also mentioned the fact that dictator Mussolini had won his high ambition by taking over Ethiopia, Abyssinia, and instituting the Roman Law, as he stated here, and that, upon of the white and colored races mixing and cross-breeding which he did, he told me Mussolini was establishing those Jim Crow laws.

Q Did he make mention at any time of a man by the name of Dr. William Shepherd?

A I asked Mr. Effinger if Dr. Shepherd, as had been so widely spoken of, was prone the real leader of the organization and he answered by saying you are now talking with as much of the real leader of the Black Legion organization as it would be possible for you to talk to.

Q Did he deny at any time that Dr. William Shepherd was associated with the Black Legion?

A He did not.

Q Nor did he affirm it?

A No /He did not.

Q Did he have any further conversation with you concerning Dr. Shepherd?

A He did not.

Q So that from what Effinger told you, you had every reason to believe that he was the absolute head of the order?

A I gained from Effinger's statement that he and other men in different localities were in complete charge of the Black Legion. I would say that I consider from his statement that it's composed and ruled more or less by what I would term a Board of Directors. Several men that get together and agree on policy, routine, and split the spoils and control its activities.

Q Did he -- strike that -- during his discussion with you, relating t
Detroit situation, did he say anything about what their plans were,
then to get Mr. Hedges to beat these charges that are being made ag
the local members?

A Well, I've got to understand that little better, Mr. --

Q Did he -- Excuse -- cross that out -- you say th Mr. Effinger told
about his plans to get Mr. Hedges?

A Yes.

Q Now, did Mr. Effinger disclose to you any other plans they had in m
for the defense, or ultimate acquitted of the men now charged in Bl
Legion activities in Detroit?

A Mr. Effinger told me it was his idea that Dayton Dean and Colonel H
Davis of the Black Legion, were expected to be convicted of the cha
as charged against them and he did not believe that any of the other
others accused would be convicted. Michigan -- it being a non-capi
punishment, did not have a capital punishment law, and they they
would, could not be hung or electrocuted and that when, that Dayton
it was his idea that Dayton Dean would be proved insane and would b
committed to an insane asylum, after which that he would be killed
loyal and devoted to the Black Legion for his exposing the conditio
in Detroit in reference to this case.

Q Now, getting back to this timeclock mechanism, for the expulsion of
gas, just where did you see that apparatus and, if possible, can yo
describe the mechanism and the approximate size of the device?

A I saw this device in Effinger's office, in the basement of his home,
the early morning hours, as previously mentioned, and would say fro
recalling faculties of my memory, that the said apparatus would be
approximately about a foot and I would say it would be, let's see,
it was a little taller than it was wide, not a great deal, it was
approximately, I would say ten -- wait a minute, it will be more th
that (Indicating length of Stenographer's notebook) how much is that

Q That's about nine inches.

A All right, I would say about eight inches wide and about ten inches
height and was possessed of an apparently regular clock-like apparat

that when set at a certain hour and put into operation, would cause expulsion of the ingredients, which was to be held in a [illegible] arrangement adjoining the clock arrangement.

Q Was there an opening in this container?

A There was one metal arrangement that shaped up, it grew larger, it [illegible] larger at the top, it came up, let me get this thing here little bit better, it was a metal tube or a pipe that led from this gas chamber the box that led into a funnel-shaped like arrangement at the top of the pressure, and he explained to me that the gas was to escape through the arrangement when set off by the timeclock arrangement.

Q Did he explain to you what type of gas would be used in this apparatus

A He mentioned that a mustard gas composition had been perfected and [illegible] to be perfectly conversant on the matter of the latest wrinkle of poisonous gases.

Q What did he say the action of this gas would be if released from this mechanism in a closed room or building?

A He said it would spread over the closed area immediately and would exterminate anything, immediately exterminate anything within this enclosed area.

Q Did he say how long a period of time it would take for this extermination

A Nothing other than it would be instantaneous -- immediate in its action

Q Did he discuss ways and means of planting these mechanisms?

A Well, he mentioned that one man could deposit this mechanism under the seat or pew and make an exit before the timeclock arrangement would function and would be well out of the way of its poisonous effects himself. It would only take a very small space and could be carried into a place with very little or any notice.

Q Now, after you learned of Mr. Effinger's plans, and and taken your oath and saw some of the workings of the Black Legion, did you decide to conclude your arrangement with Mr. Effinger as to the taking over of the territory that he offered you?

A Did I decide to conclude the arrangement?

[illegible] had started, did you decide to go thru

A. I decided to have no further activities whatsoever with the Communist organization.

Q. And Patrick Murphy, may I ask?

A. Because I considered it improper for me, as a Federal official, to be doing things, to associate further with people I knew to be certainly a danger to the well people of my [illegible], to associate with people of my [illegible], to associate with people of my [illegible] and while [illegible] to [illegible] I [illegible] to this state and was very obviously [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] experiences of those, that I consider irresponsible.

Q. How did you manage to accomplish [illegible] this office, [illegible] anyone in this office for [illegible] information which you have given?

A. I was not, I took it upon my own initiative to come to publish the [illegible] the proper legal authorities to make these criminal arrests that have and [illegible] that are now and that will be in the future to do [illegible] prosecuted to continue and [illegible]. I, however, made a telephone to Mr. Dallas J. Mabra, Assistant Director, [illegible] notifying him that I had contact. Before that, [illegible] through personal affiliation with [illegible] and the [illegible] was important for him to know.

Q. As a result of your having come this [illegible] you [illegible] to come this office and make [illegible]

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Were any promises made to you, or any inducement promised [illegible] from your information?

A. None whatsoever, other than the return of my [illegible] upon making this said trip.

Q. So that the information that you have given us has been entirely voluntary on your part in a desire to [illegible] legal [illegible] situation which you consider dangerous?

A. It has been thoroughly voluntary.

Q. Is there anything further that you wish to add to this conversation?

A. Nothing, that I can think of this time of [illegible], [illegible] that [illegible]

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Kind Sir:

There were two of my good friends murdered here last August. On a Friday morning the discovery was at 2:20. The fire was at two downstairs and one up. The two downstairs in the left temple was punctured in the left temple a bloody screw driver was found on the lawn outside bedroom. He was smothered in the kitchen as there were [illegible]

Am told by a party here that the gang could bring back here that did it if he had the authority. Two respectable business men are members of this gang that does its work all over this coast.

RECORDED
INDEXED
AUG 10 1936
61-7396-108
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
FILED
AUG 10 1936
FBI - MEMPHIS

It was a political mix and
am sure of that and being as
how as many ties and things
put together seem to make
sense and being as how the
Black Legion has 3 leaders here
by the name of Linquist you
can see there is something very
interesting to follow up. I do
not wish any one bad luck
but hoped you would protect
me in this secret that is now
a year old. It might be well
to keep my name in the back
ground but you can get all
you want to know I believe
from Sheriff Morrow of Clark
County. Then if you wished
will give you the name of

The man who knows about the case and can get the gang leader for you. You might like to know that Mr Anguish office has a telephone that has no charge of 10¢ for its use from Vancouver to Portland. I know the names of all the Black Legion here in Clark Co. Of course they are not for publication unless you would like to know. They are supposed to meet in the Court house as a Townsend Club and have made themselves leaders in it to the extent that freedom is about gone. Thank you for looking this up. Yours Most truly

Miss [redacted]

[redacted] Vancouver, Wash

72 3527 Fireman
7646 Fielding
7355 Fielding
7151 Sawyer
19613 Sawyer
7229 Auburn
7221 Auburn
7631 Evergreen
8210 Minock
19527 Fireman
7636 Evergreen

72 [illegible] Artesian
7436
Redmont
19424
West Warren
its near West wood and the other house is next door
8079
Plainview
8475
Plainview
9040 Brail
9048 Patton
9031 Stout

23348 West Warren
8234 Vaughn
9848 Vaughn
9898 Vaughn
8408 Evergreen
7735 7321
477101 7618
7651 Plainview
7781 Fielding
14721 Lionel
7421 Buchanan
7250 Minock.

This are the addresses of the pupils who belong to the Club
20048
West Warren.
She have been in the clubs two yrs.

DETROIT, MICH.
AUG 27
3-PM
1936

BUY U.S.
BO
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

2 CENTS

Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C

To whom it may concern:
My Dear Gentlemen:
It is with great pain and fear that I am writing you that within Bucks County Dublin Borough Pennsylvania there is an illegal organization so called "Black Legion" being organized and being instigated by one particular party named Lloyd Crout known also as "Butch".

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

"file"
B.W

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 14 1936

61-7398-109
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

W

I have but told from good source that they meet at his house or garage once and twice a week, and as a full blooded American citizen I being well aware of the fact that it is menacing society also unconstitutional, I appeal to you to investigate the matter before it is too late.

Citizen.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

"File"
B.W

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 14 1936

61-7398-109
FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1936 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
AUG 11
7 30 PM
1936

Department of Justice
igation of illegal act-
ivities of the N.R.A.
Washington D.C.

1130 Enquirer Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio,

HDR:GGC

August 11, 1936

Post Office Inspector in Charge,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of carbon copy of your letter under date of August 8, 1936, to the Postmaster at Greenville, Kentucky, concerning a threatening letter addressed to Charles Edward Duncan, Greenville, Kentucky, and postmarked with a Railway Post Office stamp.

This letter reads as follows:

"You are on the spot.
If you know whats best for you get out of Greenville.
If your Dad Dies its ok to come back for short while. Don't forget don't let Sept. 15th find you in Greenville, Ky.

Black Legion
The End is Death

P.S.
Dont take this for womens writing."

An examination of the above letter indicates that it does not constitute a violation of the Extortion Statute coming within the jurisdiction of this Bureau, and it is therefore returned to you herewith.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

E. J. CONNELLEY,
Special Agent in Charge

61-7398-110
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1936 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE | FILE

cc Bureau

cc Special Agent in Charge
Louisville, Kentucky.

AUG 20 1936

JEH:JDD

August 14, 1936.

Time: 3:50 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. McMahon telephoned and asked me whether Mr. McCrae had sent me the evidence we have received. I advised him that it came to us from the office to which it was turned over by the county attorney, and that as soon as I got it that we instructed our office not to do anything until they got orders from Washington. He stated that he had talked with the District Attorney out there and that he was sending an affidavit to him, and told him to look into it in a quiet way. Mr. McMahon asked me if I thought there was any necessity for notifying Mr. McCrae, because if we did he would be liable to give it to the newspapers. I informed him that I did not think it necessary to do this as there is no reason for notifying him of any action.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED

61-7398-111

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1936 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 14 1936

August 22, 1936

61-7394-122
RECORDED
FBIMK

Mr. John Cooper,
257 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your undated letter which was received at the Bureau on August 17, 1936, in which you request to be advised why the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not investigating the alleged activities of the Black Legion.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of violations of certain specific Federal laws. Therefore, unless any individual or group of individuals violates one of the Federal statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, the Bureau is without authority to conduct an investigation.

Trusting that this answers your inquiry, I remain

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

PW

CO-Los Angeles

251 Cimarron St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Department of Justice,
Washington D.C.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

Dear Mr. Hoover,

As a citizen and taxpayer I would like to know why the Dept. of Justice does not go after the Black Legion. In all other cases of kidnapping the Department is only too active.

The Black Legion is the most infamous band of criminals on reco But why go on. You know the fac give us some action.

Sincerely,
John Cooper

ack 8/22/36 PW
cc Los Angeles

RECORDED & INDEXED

AUG 25 1936

61-7398-112
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 17 1936 P. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

JEH:JDD:AS

August 13, 1936

Time: 5:35 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion.

Mr. Suydam telephoned and asked me whether I had received any evidence on the Black Legion Case in Detroit from Mr. McCrae. He advised me that McCrae had made a statement in New York about the case and that the Attorney General had sent him a telegram on May 28, 1936 but that up until a few days ago he had not submitted anything. I advised Mr. Suydam that we had submitted the material we had received to the Department for what if any action we should take, but that we refuse to make any comment about it.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Nathan
Tolson
Baughman
Clark
Glavin
Lester
Harbo
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 13 1936
P.M.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7396-113

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

EAT:TMF

August 12, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto a photostatic copy of three statements in question and answer form purporting to have been made by [redacted] on August 6, 1936 to Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCree of Detroit, Michigan. It will be observed from these statements that [redacted] alleges he entered the Black Legion and ascertained from one Virgil Effinger of Lima, Ohio that Effinger claims to have in his possession an infernal machine developed and perfected by employees of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland. It will be further noted from [redacted] statements that Effinger claims the persons who perfected this instrument are members of some super-branch of the Black Legion evidently engaged in the Government's service.

The above statements were furnished to the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Detroit Office by Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCree of Detroit, Michigan, who requested that this Bureau initiate investigation in this matter because of the allegations that the gas bomb mentioned in the statements, was made by employees of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland, and of the further mention of the plotted overturow of the Federal Government by force and violence.

It is respectfully requested that you advise me what, if any, action you desire taken in this matter. I suggest that you may desire to refer copies of these statements to the War Department for appropriate attention and consideration by that agency.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #631248

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Miss Gandy

AUG 17 1936

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-114
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 14 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota

August 17, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith in cellophane an envelope addressed to Mr. M. Hardin, of the Malcolm News Agency, Aberdeen, S. Dak., which was mailed at Detroit, Mich., August 13, 1936; and the contents of said envelope, wrapped separately in cellophane, consisting of a picture of a hooded individual with a skull and crossbones headgear, black full robe, masked, carrying a revolver in one hand, and with a skull and crossbones imprinted over the heart on the robe; and with a large question mark over the figure.

Mr. Hardin is the son of Rabbi A. M. Hardin, is 17 years of age, and runs an agency for the redistribution of several newspapers and magazines in Aberdeen.

Mr. Hardin advises that both the envelope and the contents have been handled by various persons, and does not have the slightest idea of the purpose of his receiving this mail.

Same is furnished to the Bureau with the idea in mind that perhaps similar complaints have been received from other sources. Will you please advise whether that is the case, and what activity, if any, is being engaged in by the Bureau which may necessitate a lead for the Aberdeen Office in connection with the enclosed mail?

61-7399-115

2 ENCL

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

WERNER HANNI
Special Agent in Charge

WH:B
Encl.

SEP 24 1936

KRM:RP

COORDED 61-7398 -115 September 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

RE: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 17, 1936, with which you enclosed an envelope addressed to Mr. M. Hardin, in which was contained the picture of a hooded individual.

This will advise you that information of a similar type has been received by the Bureau from various sources. The Bureau does not desire your office to undertake any investigation with reference to these matters in the absence of specific Bureau instructions. Any information of this nature, however, coming to your attention should be forwarded to the Bureau promptly.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 22 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATP:MM

August 27, 1936.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-115

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 17, 1936 transmitting a picture of a hooded figure and accompanying envelope postmarked, "Detroit, Michigan, 2, August 13, 1936, 12 M." for latent fingerprint examination in connection with the receipt of these specimens by Mr. M. Hardin of the Malcolm News Agency, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Please be advised that the material submitted has been examined but no latent fingerprints of value could be developed.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Receiving of anonymous picture of a hooded figure by Mr. M. Hardin.

Number: 61-7308-115

Specimens:

One picture of a hooded figure with a skull and crossbones headgear, black full robe, masked, carring a revolver in one hand.

One envelope in which above picture was mailed to Mr. M. Hardin.

Examination requested by: Aberdeen

Date received: chg 8-22-36 12:00 Noon

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Chemical Development

Result of examination:

Examination by: Potter

To Greenbelt 8/24/36. Returned 8/25/36
Rec'd 8/29/36 Geo. Cotton

ans. 8-27-36
27 P

8/15/36

Department of Justice
Criminal Department
Washington DC

61-1391-116
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 20 1936 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TWO PW FILE

RECORDED & INDEXED

AUG 31 1936

Gentlemen; I thought possibly some information on the "Black Legion" of Kentucky might be told to you — It seems the membership consists mostly of Negroes. If consistent have one of your men to question Eugene Brown of Williamson, Ky — This Negro has been in Jail for the past three months and happen to hear him talking with another nigro about the Legion Plans for this section —

ack 8/28/36
cc Jax P.W.

HARRINGTON HALL HOTEL

OCALA, FLA.

In my opinion it might be worth investigating. It seems from what I hear of it they enjoy to kill the ones they don't like — It is true the State of Kentucky likes law enforcement — Martin and Manchester are the worse I have seen — I can't see why this goes on — A visitor to some of these towns are not safe —

I am after some of the "Black Legion" gang and if I can get something sure, I will write you — but get this fellow Brown at Williamstown, Ky — He is real typical of what they represent —

Yours very truly

[redacted]

L. D. Douglas Hall

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUG 29 1936
1 - AM

Return to writer
Unclaimed, from
TAMPA, FLA.

DO NOT REMAIL IN THIS ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 28, 1936

File
PW

Mr [redacted]
General Delivery,
Tampa, Florida.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 15, 1936, in which you advised of certain alleged activities of the "Black Legion". It is noted that you desire this Bureau to conduct an investigation relative to this matter.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of specific federal laws. The contents of your communication have been carefully noted, but since there is no existing legislation which gives this Bureau investigative jurisdiction over the matters to which you refer, I regret that the Bureau is unable to give assistance to you in this regard.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

61-7398-116
P.H. : R.P.

42

61-1398-117
Changed to 9-2242

JAS:AF August 20, 1936

RECORDED 261-7398-118

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of August 17, 1936, bearing the above title, in which information was reported concerning the receipt of two letters by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and Dr. E. T. Wirtschafter, physician for this Brotherhood, you are advised that inasmuch as the communications received were signed "Black Legion", the facts were referred to the Department for a decision as to whether investigation was to be instituted. Upon receipt of advice from the Department, you will be promptly notified.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
LED/bsa

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
FOR FILING OR ROUTING
SLIP(S) OR declassification
DATE 10-4-77 BJA/LO

44

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

August 17, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
Miscellaneous - ~~Confidential~~

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated May 29, 1936, which letter states it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau and that if information is furnished to this office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a federal statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereon by this office other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

On August 17th, 1936, Mr. H. C. Heiss, 906 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, attorney for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, came to this office and exhibited two letters which were received through the regular mail on August 15th by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer for said Brotherhood; and Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter, physician for this Brotherhood.

These letters, which are practically identical, are typewritten apparently by an amateur with no handwriting appearing thereon. They were both mailed at 5 p. m., August 14th at South Bend, Indiana, and directed to the above-mentioned persons at 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

The letter to Mr. Phillips reads as follows:

"Mr,Albert Phillips we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T. B. allowence restored to him at once. And restore it from March 1936. If youdont we are going to take you for a ride ,and you may never return."

"Signed Black Legion"

AUG 25 1936

APPROPRIATE ATTACHES AND FIELD OFFICES ATTENTION
SUPERVISING
DATE

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7398-11

AUG 1936

8-19-36

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77

45

Attorney Heise advises that Alba E. Kelley mentioned in the letters is a member of the Brotherhood and gives his address as Box 251, Monon, Indiana, which address is that of a funeral home, and that Kelley supposedly owns this house and reserves a room there for himself. Kelley is a former railroad worker and has at different periods received a sick benefit from the afore-mentioned Brotherhood at the rate of fifty dollars per month because of tubercular trouble, but this benefit was cut off by the Brotherhood as of March 1st, 1936.

In view of the fact that these two letters are signed Black Legion and because of the instructions received from the Bureau, as set forth in the first paragraph of this letter, it is respectfully requested that this office be advised by wire or teletype whether or not these apparent extortion cases should be investigated.

Very truly yours,

J. P. Mac Farland RTR

J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

RTR:h

cc: Indianapolis

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY



46

61-7398-119
Changed to 9-2242

Mr [redacted]
San Luis Obispo [redacted]

Mr John Edgar Hoover. Cal.
U.S. Department of Justice,

Dear Sir.

I wrote you. on june 18th 1936.
your answer I received on june 27, 1936
Claiming these people are not breakin
Federal Laws.

RECORDED & INDEXED
SEP 1 1936

6 - 1398 -
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 28 1936

This band of Black Legion. who used to
perade arround my house at night in blac
robes. Making the howle of a Coyott. followi
me to my Sons place at torrence Cal and
persecuted me their. Had a skull & Bones o
the radiator of their Car. about 5 Inch
and Cooked like greay rubber. They have
Stolen my money. Chloroformed me in my
own home. And since I have not rea
assistance from my writing you, they hav
increast their persecution. Continual
Night and day. If this system of murde
by degrees is toleratable by Federal Law.
Then anything I do to retaliate, shoul
Justifiable. I have never hurt anyone i
my life, and do not wish to hurt anyone

48

Sheet 2* [redacted] San Luis Obispo. Cal

break any Law. I have prayed nightly years that this persecution might be stop I have appealed to authority's. I have plead with members of the Black Legion. known in have helped in this dirty deal, they just to me. They have to have a subject, to work on If they had no subject their would be moth to it. So no matter how much pleading they would not try to help.

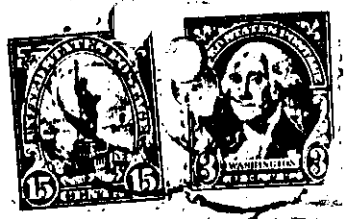
If I can get no help. I will destroy these persecutor machines, And I beleive God will forgive me. When I asked at the Sheriff office for the address of the Crime institute. he laughed and said he did know of a Crime Institute. In the eyes of Creator I am no Criminal. And I know if these people know the truth, and kn the feelings of my heart, they would st this murderous work, They are paral my hands. I can write no more.

Hoping in some way I can be assisted stopping this Crime. Yours. [redacted]

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

[redacted]

[redacted] San Luis Obispo Cal.



Mr John Edgar Hoover.
National Crime Inst.
Washington
D. C.

REGISTERED
NO. 606.

50

Dear Sir:

I am sending you a report of places which I want you to investigate. The basements of these they cemented in the wires into the wall but this can be easily recognized. These lines are all around the neighborhood, every house. As the barber, he has everything arranged, the roller curtain is pulled down. This difference between this and radio aerial can easily be ascertained on de Nord and South.

Look through the basement because they got extra wires. First go to the basement and all modern reduced up.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
NOT RECORDED
RECORDED & INDEXED
AUG 31 1936
61-7398-121
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 29 1936

This man rides a mule
(and at twelve o'clock
He one of the
black Legioners. Watch
him closely. This
army is very fre
quently given its
meetings. Will you
please investigate.
There is many people
who belong to this
Legion.
We would like you
to investigate. You will
find many unnecities
there.

from Mr. Effinger, in regard to my taking over the aforementioned ter
and becoming one of the Black Legion's organizers and if, and when, t
communication is received, or this personal contact is made with Effi
for the sake of decency and justice to all classes and creeds I expec
forward, immediately forward same to the office of the authorities.

Q. Is this address which you gave in Cincinnati your permanent place of residence?

A. It is for the time being but in the true sense of the word, permanent as I understand it, it is not, my intention is to change this address in the immediate future.

Q. Do you know definitely now where you will be located?

A. It is my intention to return to California, Los Angeles California, way of Atlanta, Georgia, where I expect to visit with friends and relatives.

Q. So that you will ultimately take up your residence, after a temporary visit in Atlanta, in California?

A. That's right.

Q. Los Angeles?

A. Yes sir.

Mr. Colburn: That'll be all.

-oOo-

PW:CDW

RECORDED 61-7398-108 August 18, 1936.

Miss [redacted]

Vancouver, Washington.

Dear Madam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 4, 1936 in which you advise of an alleged murder, and that you are in possession of information as to the identity of the perpetrators of this act.

For your information, the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is limited to the investigation of violations of specific Federal Statutes. In the absence of any indications that the matter about which you complain constitutes the violation of any such Federal Statute, I regret that there is no action this Bureau can take in the premises.

It is noted from your communication that you state you are in possession of information relative to the Black Legion organization in your community. Please be advised that this Bureau, in the absence of authority under the existing statutes, is conducting no inquiry into the activities of the Black Legion, and consequently, any information which you have relative to this organization should be furnished to the local authorities.

Very truly yours,

P.W

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Portland

AUG 19 1936

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington Field Office, Room 4244,
Washington, D. C.

September 2, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
.45 calibre Colt automatic pistol,
Model 1911, #251440,
Theft of Government Property.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated August 27, 1936, Bureau file #61-7398.

Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War Department, has no record of the Government ownership or loss of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, model 1911, #251440.

Mr. Kahlert will immediately circularize the United States Army Corps Areas and Arsenals and Depots for possible information concerning the above described material, and you will be promptly advised of the result obtained. This circularization generally requires approximately one month's time, and until final word shall have been received from the War Department this case will be held pending by the Washington Field Office.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Keith
J. M. KEITH,
Special Agent in Charge.

RPB:EB
52-956

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-122

SEP 5 1936

SEP 4 1936

ONE STAT. SECT.

RB

55

KRM:CJ

41-7393-123

September 24, 1936

Miss [redacted]

[redacted], Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

Acknowledging receipt of your undated letter directed to this Bureau, I must advise you that none of the matters mentioned by you therein come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

For this reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any affirmative action in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Pittsburgh

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 24 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

5

Mr Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

RECORDED
& Roved
INDEXED
Dear Sir

61-7398-123

SEP 4 1936

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 25 1936

now I do not
[illegible] to you

ONE
KRM.

When father died, he left money for mother, brother Harry who is delicate, and myself. The rest of family had gotten their share. They was jealous, "forged" mothers name, robbed us of everything, until we had to

62-C-3105

5

them to join in with the Black Legion
I was treated with unspeakable
cruelty, tied my hands, bite me in
the throat, sometimes burned my feet
with candle flame, destroyed our
mail, took our letters out of mail
box, hid in the attic and cellar
we tried to get help, but the Police
are shielding them, sometimes
they wear their robes, other times
plain clothes.

Last Aug. a strange man
came to our home, said his name
was Shawley, said he was a
State Police, and that he was one
of the men who rides in our home
he told me, the Chief of Police of Altoona
sent him to tell me, if I told

what was going on. they wanted
that machine out. and bury
me in the woods. I told him I
would have him arrested for threats
he just laughed. he burned a
"Dairy" Barn with all the cows.
he laughed how he pulled America's
most perfect kidnaping crime. and
got away with it.

This gang is the worst in America
and he is feared and despised by
all gangland. he is called.
Double-Crosser Stanley. he said
he has murdered that many people
he couldnt count them. one of his
gang is called "Snake" Thomas.

[illegible] of the best mothers that ever lived. she passed to her Heavenly Home July 6.

My circumstances can be investigated.

If you wish to send anyone here, please tell them to come in the afternoons or evenings.

If this is not in your work will you please give this letter to the right person.

Respt.

[redacted]

[redacted] Pa.

RECEIVED
FORWARDED
FILE SECTION
SEP 4 6 PM 1936
SEP 24 1936

KRM:RP

RECORDED

61-7398-124 September 22, 1936

Mr. John L. Cooper,
257 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated August 29, 1936, I must advise you that there is no information contained therein indicating a violation over which this Bureau has jurisdiction.

In keeping with my letter directed to you under date of August 22, 1936, you are again informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is undertaking no investigation of the Black Legion in view of the fact that the activities conducted by that organization are not of a type in which investigative jurisdiction is conferred by statute upon this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Los Angeles (with copies of incoming letter)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 22 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Los Angeles, Calif.
Aug. 29, 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U.S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.,
John Edgar Hoover, Director;

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of August 22nd. in which you explained that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice had no jurisdiction to investigate the Black Legion.

RECORDED & INDEXED
SEP 23 1936

61-7318-124
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 5 1936

For your information, I would like to call to your attention at least six federal laws which make it mandatory upon the Department of Justice to go after the Black Legion. These laws prohibit (1) nightriding; (2) kidnapping persons from one state to another; (3) threatening communication between states; (4) moving from one state to another to avoid prosecution for a felony or to avoid giving testimony; (5) interference with Federal Relief Administration; (6) fraudulently obtaining federal aid given to rifle clubs.

I sincerely protest the evasion by the Department of Justice of its responsibility to investigate and prosecute the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
JUN 12
11 AM
1936
9
ARCADE ANNEX

BUY U
B
ASK YOUR POSTM

Hon. Edgar Hoover, in Charge,

U. S. Dept. of Justice

Washington, D. C.

Omaha First National Building
Omaha, Nebraska
September 4, 1936

Mr. V. C. Batis,
Post Office Inspector,
201 Post Office Building,
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Batis:

We are in receipt of a letter dated September 2, 1936 from H. B. Hilbert, Assistant Secretary of The Equitable Building & Loan Association, Grand Island, Nebraska, which reads as follows:

"Sometime ago I received a communication through the U. S. Mail, signed by the 'Black Legion' threatening to do me bodily injury. I turned the letter over to the Postal Department, but they have declined to act thereon, claiming that the same does not come under their regulations, due to the note not extorting money.

"It is very evident to me that there is in this locality an aggregation styling themselves the 'Black Legion', evidently a deterioration from the 'Klan Klan', and I am wondering if your department would care to investigate the situation.

"An early reply will be appreciated."

Since Mr. Hilbert's complaint is not one within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, this information is being furnished you for such action as you desire to take in the premises.

Very truly yours,
RECORDED
&
INDEXED
R. A. JALT,
Special Agent in Charge.

61-12398-12

SEP 8 1936

FMH
Bureau

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
September 5
1936

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Department, Lansing, Michigan, called at this office at which time the following interview was had with Special Agent James D. Cunningham.

Mr. Moritz stated that he had been at Lima, Ohio, attempting to remove Virgil Effinger, leader of the Black Legion, to Detroit, Michigan, for trial. Mr. Moritz advised that there are warrants in the State of Michigan for this man for carrying explosives and criminal syndicalism.

Continuing, Mr. Moritz stated that after much effort the extradition papers had been signed by the Governor of Ohio and warrants issued directing Effinger's removal to the State of Michigan. These warrants were turned over to Sheriff R. Marshall, Allen County, Lima Ohio, for service. Mr. Moritz further advised that the Sheriff's Office and Police Department at Lima, Ohio, had refused to cooperate in this regard and although Effinger is readily available at that point, they will not serve the warrant or cause his removal to the State of Michigan. Mr. Moritz stated further that he feels that if an attempt were made to remove Effinger it would result in bloodshed as Lima, Ohio, apparently is the center of the Black Legion activities and armed resistance would be given to any attempt to remove this man.

Mr. Moritz was interested in ascertaining whether there was any Federal Statute under which the Federal Bureau of Investigation could assist his office in removing Subject to the State of Michigan for trial. He stated that he heard of a recently enacted Statute that would probably cover this situation.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-126

Mr. Moritz was advised by Agent Cunningham that the Statute he had in mind in all probability was the Interstate Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute and it was explained to him that this Statute

SEP 8 1936

FBI - DETROIT

only covers subjects fleeing the state of prosecution to avoid prosecution for certain specified felonies which were enumerated to him. It was further pointed out to him that the charges now pending in Detroit do not come within the specified felonies and further that apparently Effinger had not fled from Michigan to avoid prosecution as he is a resident of Ohio.

Mr. Moritz appeared satisfied with this explanation and stated that if he secured any additional information that made it appear that a Federal Statute was violated, he would communicate with this office.

Speaking generally, Mr. Moritz stated that he had information that the Black Legion had contemplated an armed rebellion on September 16, 1936, and that it appeared to him that this alone would be sufficient for the Government to take action. He was advised that this matter had already been referred to the Attorney General of the United States by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Wayne County, Michigan, and the Honorable Mr. Cummings had stated that, in his opinion, the facts disclosed at that time did not constitute a Federal violation.

As previously instructed by the Bureau, this office will not take any action in this regard without prior instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

Herold H. Reinecke

Herold H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

JDC:ERA
62-779

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

JWV:CJ
61-7398

September 9, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM.

Time -
10:10 A. M.

Upon the receipt of a copy of the teletype message from the St. Louis office to the Detroit office, dated September 1, 1936, with reference to a request made by a member of the Detroit Police Department for the cooperation of the St. Louis office in the removal of a member of the Black Legion from St. Louis to Detroit, I communicated with you by telephone.

In accordance with your instructions I communicated with Special Agent in Charge Newman at St. Louis on September 5, 1936 and made inquiry as to what his office was doing in this matter. Mr. Newman stated that he had not done anything other than that which is disclosed by his teletype above referred to, that is, he made inquiry of the Detroit office whether this matter was within the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

He stated that Sergeant Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Department who had been in St. Louis and requested the cooperation of the Bureau in this matter had returned to Detroit, but that his partner was still in St. Louis. Mr. Newman was instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific Bureau authority.

Time -
10:45 A. M.

I communicated by telephone with Special Agent J. D. Cunningham of the Detroit office in the absence of Agent in Charge Reinecke and he advised that Mr. John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator of the Attorney General's Office for the State of Michigan, had requested the assistance of the Detroit office in the removal of the reported leader of the Black Legion named Leffenger from Lima, Ohio. Mr. Cunningham advised that he told Mr. Moritz the particular charge on which the Michigan authorities were seeking to extradite

61-7398-127

RECORDED & INDEXED

SEP 12 1936

Effenger was not within the unlawful flight statute and consequently no investigation could be conducted. He further stated that no investigation was being instituted with reference to the removal of the member of the Black Legion from St. Louis, Missouri, about whom the teletype message was sent. He was further instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific prior Bureau authority.

Respectfully,

J. W. Vincent

J. W. Vincent.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

---

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

WBI DEPT OF JUSTICE ST LOUIS 0711 9-1-36 12-30 P.M. VEF

SAC DETROIT

PHONE. SERGEANT CHARLES MEEHAN DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED COOPERATION THIS OFFICE IN SECURING REMOVAL TO DETROIT OF CLARENCE PRINCE AGE THIRTY FIVE ALLEGED MEMBER OF BLACK LEGION NOW HELD FOR DETROIT POLICE BY ST. LOUIS POLICE. MEEHAN HAS WARRANT ISSUED BY CIRCUIT COURT OF WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AUGUST TWENTY FOUR NINETEEN THIRTY SIX CHARGING PRINCE AND OTHERS ASSAULTED ONE GEORGE WASHER WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON AT HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN MAY FIFTEENTH NINETEEN THIRTY THREE. MEEHAN HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT DATE OF OFFENSE PRECLUDES ACTION UNDER UNLAWFUL FLIGHT STATUTE. PRINCE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY KNOWN FEDERAL VIOLATION THIS DISTRICT. ADVISE WHETHER ANY FEDERAL ACTION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN THERE WHICH WILL PERMIT HIS REMOVAL.

END

MEEHAN

RECORDED

INDEXED

cc Bureau

61-7396-127

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 3 1936 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Sent _____ M Per _____

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

69

61-7398-128 changed to
61-7560-2

70

Sept. 8, 1936
[redacted]
Laramie, Wyo.

Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

1. I do not believe the letter to be a "joke" from a friend, as I know no one in Detroit. And furthermore cannot think of any reason for anyone anywhere sending it.

2. The letter was addressed to a store where I formerly worked, and the Post Office employees knowing I had a box, placed the letter there, where I recieved it.

3. In my estimation, the organization in question is played up a little too strongly by the press; and although I must admit I'm a little worried, I'm not much afraid.

4. I'm 23 years of age, unmarried, and can take pretty good care of myself in case of any eventualities.

In sending this I hope it will be of some aid to you, and of no bother. I wish to offer my cooperation in the matter in any way you see fit. In the meantime I am standing by awaiting further developments, and advise from your office.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7396-129

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1937 FEB

SEP 22 1936

KRM:RP
61-7338 -129 September 19, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

For your information only, there are attached hereto photographic copies of a letter from Mr. [redacted] Laramie, Wyoming, dated September 8, 1936, together with photographic copies of "Black Legion" data which were forwarded to Mr. [redacted] by some unknown person.

You are instructed that no investigation or inquiry should be undertaken by you under any circumstances in this matter in the absence of prior specific Bureau authorization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1047456

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 21 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GJS:CJ

61-7398-129

RECORDED

September 19, 1936.

Mr. [redacted]

Laramie, Wyoming.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 8, 1936 and the enclosures, pertaining to the Black Legion.

The information furnished in your letter does not indicate a violation of any law over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 21 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

72

Sept. 8, 1936
[redacted]
Laramie, Wyo.

Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

1. I do not believe the letter to be a "joke" from a friend, as I know no one in Detroit. And furthermore cannot think of any reason for anyone anywhere sending it.

2. The letter was addressed to a store where I formerly worked, and the Post Office employees knowing I had a box, placed the letter there, where I recieved it.

3. In my estimation, the organization in question is played up a little too strongly by the press; and although I must admit I'm a little worried, I'm not much afraid.

4. I'm 23 years of age, unmarried, and can take pretty good care of myself in case of any eventualities.

In sending this I hope it will be of some aid to you, and of no bother. I wish to offer my cooperation in the matter in any way you see fit. In the meantime I am standing by awaiting further developments, and advise from your office.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-129

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 22 1936

SEP22 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

DETROIT, MICH.
AUG 13
12 — M
1936

BUY U.
B
ASK YOUR

Mr [redacted]

Laramie Wyo

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. DRAWER "V",
Plaza Station,
St. Louis, Missouri.

September 9, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This will confirm the telephone conversation of September 5, 1936 between Mr. John Vincent of the Bureau and the writer concerning the request of the Detroit, Mich. Police Department for the assistance of this Bureau in securing the removal from St. Louit to Detroit of Clarence Prince, an alleged member of the Black Legion, for whom the Detroit Police hold a warrant charging assault with a dangerous weapon.

As Mr. Vincent was advised, this office has taken no action whatever in this matter and in conformity with the Bureau's instructions no future action will be taken.

For the information of the Bureau and the Detroit office, this is to advise that on September 1, 1936 Chief of Detectives John J. Carroll, St. Louis Police Dept., contacted this office advising that assistance was desired by officers of the Detroit Police Dept. in removing from St. Louis to Detroit Clarence Prince, who was wanted in Detroit for assault with a dangerous weapon.

At the St. Louis Police Dept., Special Agent H. G. Wiltse of this office was introduced to Detective Sergt. Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Dept., who accompanied Mr. Wiltse to the St. Louis Bureau office and informed Mr. Wiltse and the writer that indictment No. 18594 was returned by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich. on August 24, 1936 against Clarence Prince, Henry Van Horn, Rudyard K. Wellman, Whitney Fleming and Roy Hepner, charging that these persons acting in concert on May 15, 1933 at Highland Park, Mich. assaulted George Washer with an iron bar, club, or other dangerous weapon, to-wit., a blackjack, with intent to inflict great bodily harm less than the crime of murder. Sergt. Meehan had in his possession a warrant for the arrest of Clarence Prince issued by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich., on August 24, 1936, charging this offense.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7599-150

Concerning the alleged activities of Prince and others, Sergt. Meehan advised that on or about June 1, 1936 Prince, along with a number of other persons, were arrested in Detroit for questioning in connection with the Poole murder which was allegedly committed by members of the Black Legion. At that time the police had no knowledge as to Prince, be-

SEP 16 1936

ing involved in the Black Legion crimes and at about 4:00 A. M. the day following his arrest he was allowed to go home, having first been instructed to return to the Police Department for questioning at 8:00 o'clock the same morning. Instead of returning Prince, upon going home, disposed of his furniture and other personal property and disappeared. Sergt. Meehan advised that after considerable investigation he had located Prince in St. Louis, Mo., through his brother who lives in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Sergt. Meehan advised that he is convinced that Prince is connected with several Black Legion murders and that he is guilty of the murder of James Belac in May, 1935 as the order to kill Belac must have been approved by Prince, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion organization.

Sergt. Meehan stated that the offense alleged in the indictment mentioned above is not the warrant upon which Prince will possibly be prosecuted, but that the Detroit Police Dept. is desirous of having him return to Detroit as it is believed he will be in a position to furnish valuable information concerning other crimes allegedly committed by the Black Legion. It is also Sergt. Meehan's belief that Prince can be convicted of murder in Detroit.

Sergt. Meehan stated that he had conversed with Prince since his arrest in St. Louis on August 31, 1936, but that he will not waive extradition and is unwilling to furnish any information of value. Sergt. Meehan requested the assistance of this office in securing authorization of Federal prosecution of Prince under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution statute in order that he might be returned to Detroit inasmuch as the trial of some of the Black Legion members is now under way there and that Prince might prove a valuable witness to the State at this time.

Sergt. Meehan was advised that inasmuch as the substance of the offense for which Prince was indicted occurred before the enactment of the statute forbidding Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution, Federal action in this regard could not be undertaken. Sergt. Meehan suggested that it might be possible for the U. S. Attorney at Detroit to institute some action against Prince which would permit his removal, and in view of this the teletype of September 1, 1936 was directed to the Detroit office. Immediately upon receipt of the Detroit telegram on September 1, 1936 Detective Lawrence Sheehy of the Detroit Police Department, who is working with Sergt. Meehan on this matter, was notified at the St. Louis Police Dept. that the U. S. Attorney at Detroit knew of no Federal law which would assist in the removal of Prince.

Following is the description of Prince, as shown by the records of the St. Louis Police Department:



79

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | CLARENCE LEE PRINCE |
| Age | 31 (Born 2-16-05 in Hickman County, Ky.) |
| Height | 6' 1" |
| Weight | 145 |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Eyes | Gray yellow |
| Hair | Very light chestnut |
| Teeth | Lower right out |
| Residence | 2328 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo. |
| Police Number | St. Louis Police Dept. #42095. |
| Relatives | Father - Elbert Prince, Hickman, Ky.<br>Mother - Kate Prince, same address.<br>Wife - Lucille Prince, 2328 Albion Pl., St. Louis, Mo.<br>Brother- Clyde Prince, 3140 Converse Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill. |

As previously stated, in view of the Bureau instructions, no action whatever will be taken in this matter by this office.

Very truly yours,

Jay C. Newman

JAY C. NEWMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

JCN:M
CC-Detroit
88-38-



20

Sept. 4, 1938

Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Director of the Division of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

52772

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to urge that your department undertake a very thorough-going investigation of the anti-American activities of the Black Legion. Judging from the newspapers, they constitute a lawless organization tending to force workingmen to lawless activity -- Klus Klan sort of violence and murder.

Sincerely,

John Warren

KANSAS
SEP 12
6 PM
1936
MO.

BUY U.S.
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington,
D. C.

KRM:VTL
61-7398 -132

September 26, 1936.

RECORDED

Mrs. Ethel Abell,
1508 West Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated September 17, 1936, I must advise you that the matters of which you complain do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. For this reason I will be unable to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Indianapolis

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Nelson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 23 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Indianapolis, Ind
Sept. 17, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Dear Sir

As I have been troubled more with those night hangovers. I thought I would write to you once more to see if I could get some help from them. Last night I was setting in the front room a reading my evening paper when I heard some one call my name I got up and went to the door and there was Ella Williams the woman that I was

ENCL

ack 9-26-36 KRM

RECORDED & INDEXED
SEP 29 1936
61-7377-132
SEP 21 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILED

a telling you a bout in
my other letter that I
wrote to you, and behind
her was her Husband
Charlie Williams They
both come Rushing in
at me in a Threatening
way, I saw I had to do some-
-thing I did not have
any weapon on me so I
just reared back like a
Soldier and defied them
I told them I was not
afraid of both of them
and they said that they
was not by their self
they said there was a
whole gang of Niggers Coms
with them right

around the corner in the
alley Charlie williams then
asks me if I was running
all over the neighborhood
telling every body that
he had a Big knife open
and was after his family
trying to kill them, I
told him no, I only
ask the woman next
door that is Edna williams
his sister in law if the
little girls was over to my
house, they had come to
my house and cried and
said that they was afraid
that Charlie williams
was going to kill all
of them, and stay

williams that is one of the
girls name, the girl that
they took to raise said that
Charlie williams had a
big knife and she was a-
afraid that he would
kill all of them,, they
said they was on their
way to church to tell the
preacher, they were both
crying when they were
talking to me they said
they was afraid he would
kill them all,
as I told you in my
other letter I belive
there are people fauding
against me and I think
they send people here

To say things and then
go away and say that I
said the things that they
said them selves,
They have got people in
other states that are jawdin
against me, I belive those
gangsters are working all
over the world, for a good
many years they would
send strangers around
here to pester me, but now
I am finding out who
a good many of them are,
the names of some of
them are, Max Abell
his wife Mall Jones Brewer
Abell and other members
of his that I do not no

Their names, Ella Williams
Charlie Williams at 1430
Aster St. Others at Effie
Rep Spiritulost Church
at I think The number is
1426 Aster St; "whites Spiritulost
Church;" Holy Angels Spirit-
ulost Church; and Joseph
Williams 1506 W. Ohio St,
all of May Donovan &
Family that lives in the
next Block west of me on
west Ohio St and whites
third hand store at 1506 W. Ohio St
and The Reiner Family
that lives at 209 Stoyhne
St, Don McKinney & his
wife Beulah Donovan McKinney

Gerald Lesley & Family
Mr. & Mrs Brown 1400 Block
W. Ohio St Ida Suiter 1400
Block W. Ohio St, a Family
by The name of Cook
another name Washburn
another name Zike
Claude Mass & Family
They all live in 1400 Blk
W. Ohio St, and a Good
Many more but no use
To try to name all of them
The Children of This
neighborhood some of them
of some of The Familys
That I have named it
would be a Good Idea
To have some one To The
School some Time

and Examine all those
girls from six years old
to sixteen and see how
many was wronged, and
get them to tell who
wronged them and
how many offerend one
wronged them and in
whose house it took place
in, and put the lie proof
on them to see if they
were lying or telling the
truth for children around
here sure can lie the
same as they can do other
evil things, then they
done, if they would
then examine all
the boys at both ends

and see how many of
them had been Harmed
and make them tell
who did it and what
they give them to get
them to and where it
took place at there are a lot
of things going on in
this end of the city
it is a shame that they
are getting by with it
it would be a good idea
to ask the Reimer girls
at 209 Skyline st, if their
father ever made advances
to ward them; and their
Brother Bernard Reimer
might be asked what
he is doying climbing

in trucks with different
men and stoping men on
the street the other day I saw
Bernard Reimer stop a man
on the street and I heard
the man tell him that
he was not putting out any
thing" this May williams
the little girl that
Charlie & Ella williams
took to raise" they might
ask her about her milk
bottle she is about 10 years
old and they still put her
to bed with a milk bottle
with a nipple on it they
might ask her who she
sleeps with and if she
ever makes a mistake

in the night when she
reaches for her Bottle, it
dont make sense that they
would put a 10 year old Girl
to Bed with a nursing
Bottle, mrs, willins said
that may would sleep her
mouth shute as long as
Charlie bought her Pleasure
and give her money and
when he quite then may
would talk, may has got
a little tent in the back
yard she told me once
that she saw a negro
man go out the back
yard, mrs willions told
me that Charlie had
secret places made in

The Bacerment under the
House, They also have a dry
well I seen them making
it and They have got it
Corned up with a Flower
bed in The back yard,
They might also ask may
about her Rupture she has
Told a good many different
Tales about it, how she got
Ruptured and why she
had To wear a Corset so
long for; They have been
got it fixed so That They
Can use Electricty with
out it running Through
The meter, This Eat when
she Goes out every night
and Charlie stays at

Home with the lights
turned out, it might be
a good idea to watch some
of them when they are
out shopping also, and this
Joseph & Edna Williams
that live next door to me
at 1506 W. Ohio St, Joseph
is a Brother to Charlie
Williams, they have three
children, they are not
old enough to go to
School yet the 2 oldest ones
are old enough to walk
but still they put them
to bed with their milk
bottles and around 10 or
12 o'clock I hear one of
the children start to

Crying and Coughing
and Joseph The Father
will bring the Child to
the window and tell him
to spit it out. Spit it all out,
I have heard the Mother
trying to get one of the
Children to smoke a Cigarette
They have also got Electric
wires fixed down through
the roof and got an entrance
to the attic from a Clothes
Closet. They had a Old
man that she said was
a Cousin to them set up
in a Chair in the yard
every night all night
for a bout 2 weeks a
watching my House and

trying to get in with me
she said I might as well
have his money as any body
else, when they saw I would
have nothing to do with
him they started their war
against me every few nights
her sister, Stella Rinder
and her husband comes
there, Stella will be drunk
and stagger around and
defy the people in the neigh-
borhood about something
or other, Stellas other husband
they say died mysteriously
about a year ago and she
married this man that
she knew when she lived
with her husband that is

New Head, and my William
said that Stella's first Husband
haunted Stella and her Husband
by pounding on the wall so
bad that Stella was talking
about suicide, there are several
deaths that I think should be
investigated besides the one
that I just mentioned here
are the names of some of the
others, Laura Donovan she had
a married name but I don't
no what it is, she was a
daughter to all Donovan and
step daughter to his wife

1. Jay Donovan, she had a quarrel
with Laura and her son Claude
Donovan went home with Laura
I did not think they had time
to get home untill, Jay Donovan
yeled at me and told me that
Laura had taken Poison and
asks me to go over there I did
not no where she lived at
so she had her daughter Irene
to go with me to direct me to
where she lived, when I got
there Laura was unconsiss
in a short time the police
come I had been trying to

In her Prison I took heard it
was good to give any one who
had taken poison I took her apron
off her as I did so something
fell out of the pocket, it was
cigrette making a nickle and
a scrap of paper, the Police ask
me who they were and I gave
them to the Police, on the paper
was scribbled Glauda Mona.
the name was not finished
it looked like she had made
a last effort to write her
Half Brothers name and was not
able to finish it,

The Woman no usgl To live neth
Roor To me where The williams
now live, and every time she
got pregant she would say that
when it come she was going
To kill it or Take it To white
river and Through it in and
drown it, There was one of her
Babys died when They lived
There, she said That old man
Bill he at That Time lived
in That shed in The rear of her
house had a entrence made so
as To pass Through her shed
To get To The Other Buildings

here that Henry Schofield owns
without being seen by outsiders
that Jim Hill is now dead,
but another man lives in that
shed, I don't think that Jim was
any better now from the way
they real around drunk,
There is also a shack across
the street up the alley where
they hang around drunk
most of the time; another
death that might be investigated
is a Tillberry girl that was
supposed to commite suicide,
and another one is Flossie

Robinette. She is Ella willing
that I have been telling you about
her daughter, Ella Williams
told me that she was with
her daughter Flossie Robinette
the night before she died the
next day, she said Flossie's
husband kicked Flossie in
the side and that the neighbors
heard Flossie crying and beg
him to get a doctor for her.
and that he would not do so
said she was sent to the Ho-
-pital later and died, after her
death she had left two

ington & 2 Insurance Policies
She said Tissie's Husband Took
one of The Children and give
her one, and also give her one
Half of The Insurence money
You might find out also That
her uncle Robert Pruitt was
Insured, his age Put at about
20 years younger Than what
he was so as to get more
Insurence money, he is now
Dead, I believe a Gang of Them
go Around To different Churches
and in Homes under The

Pertence of Keeping Good and
Hope People and get them to
do and say most any thing
that they want them to,
like I told you in the other
letter Ella williams bringing
those strangers men to my
house in the year of 1921 and
Hoping me, having me to
sign all of them papers
that I do not no what I was
signing, that was the year
that they Hoped that men

had Room to my House and
got him to Bill Himself
There was one man who claimed
to be a Spiritulast he said he
was going to Conect me and my
mother and one of my Brothers
and one of my Sisters up with
evil Spirits so we would live
in Torment as long as we
lived and then meet a
Tregic death when we did
die, and he made all kinds
of vile threats on us,

I did not think so much about
it I thought they were just
a lot of nuts, but that was a
way back in 1921, here it is
now 1936, and I no now that
it is a fact that there are a
gang of Human Rats that
are getting worse all the
time the longer they are let
go the worse they get, crime
is a Plasure to them, they
Thirst for Blood, when they
comite a murder gloteover
it and Brag about it,

before my Brother his name
was Claude Foster died a
Stranger man came to my
House and told me, he said
well we have let him live
and tourtored him as long
as we can now we are going
to take him for a ride and
it will be a one way ride.
I asks him if he meant they
would bring him back
dead and he said no that
They did not intend to
bring him back at all

he said The Police sent him
To tell me, he said it would
just be a one way ride, he
said The Police said That
They was going To take him
To The Hospital and That They
was going To Kill him at
The Hospital, I did not no
who They were Talking about
for once a strange man come
To my House and said he was
Claude Foster and I Told him
he was not, be cause Claude

Foster was my Brother and
I knew he was not Claude
Foster, but he still claimed
that was his name so I
thought maby there was
more than one Claude Foster
and maby that was his
name, so later on another
man came to my House and
started to talk about Claude
Foster, and called him a
Gangster, and I told him
that Claude Foster was not
a Gangster that he was

my Brothe, They said they
was talking about the Yonger
by that name, so when
they come and called him
a gangster and said they
was going to take him to
the Hospital and kill him
I did not no that they was
talking about my Brother,
in about a month after
the mon come and told me
that they was going to
take him for a one way

side and Kill him, I got
a Telegram from Louisville
Ky, that told me my Brother
Claude Foster was dead, I
did not no when I got there
if I would see my Brother
or this strange man by the
same name that they called
a Ramgster, the man that
came and told me that they
was going to take him
for a ride and Kill him
also said that they was
going to plant a Popl

Lyrgite on him to make Tolob
like he was a dope peddler,
when I got to Louisville, Ky.
I had To go To The Police Station
To find out where my Brother
lived at, so I Think to my self
well I will just Tell The Police
all About This and let Them
Investigate it, you see I had
no Idea That The Police would
be Involved in a Killing,
so I ask The Police About it
And They said yes That was
so They said They Took Clovie

To The Hospital and waited in
the nett room untill They
killed him, They seemed to
be much Pleased about their
Part in The killing They said
They took him to millers
Funeral Place and he woond
dead so They took him back to
The Hospital and had hime
killed again, still I thought
They must be talking about
some one else besides my
Brother, I ask The Police to
take me to millers where

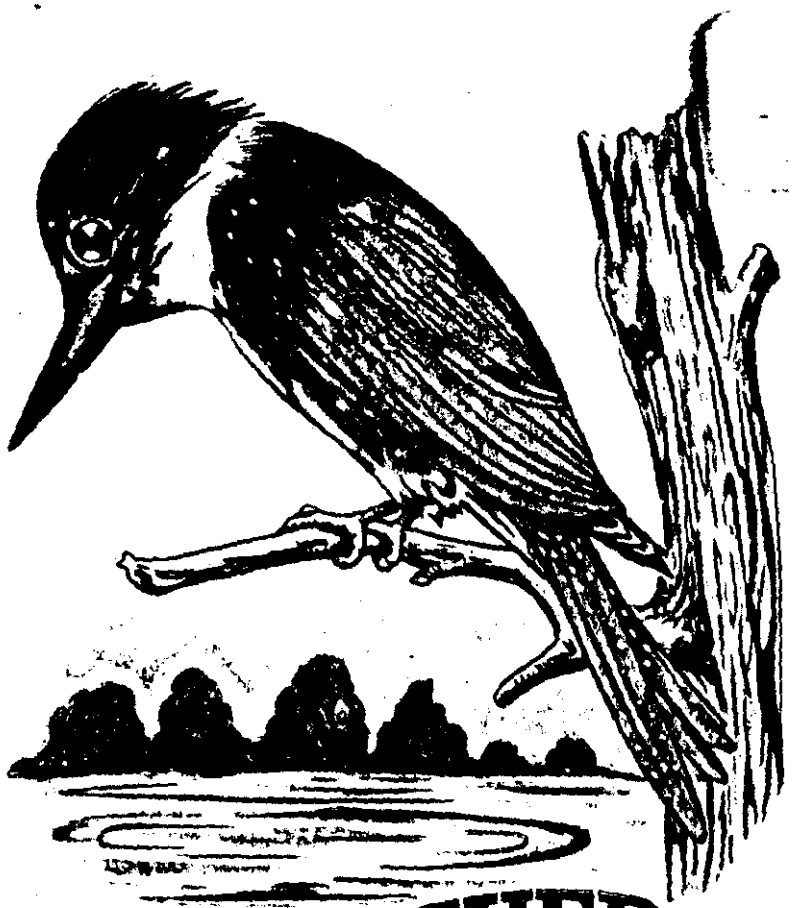
my Brother was out, when I got
there mrs, miller confronted
me with papers in her hand
and demanded money from
me for her part in the case,
she said she would not let
me see my Brother untill I
paid her, I had an awfull time
but finely got to see him.
and then they would not let
us have him at first, and we
had an awfull time to induce
them to let us have him
so we could Burry him.

that job place will be three
years about the 14 or 15 of October
I do wish that you will do
every thing you can to investigate
his death and I will help
in any way I can if there
is any thing that I can do
to help, you see there must be
some police in that gang cause
later on when I mentioned
my Brothers death to the
williams, Charlie williams
said, was that him, was
that the bright one, I ask
him what he ment by that

remarks, and he said is that
the Brother that lived in
your House, I said yes," and he
said, Thats him all right,
they got the right one all
right, I tried to find out what
he ment but had no success,
So I do think and I belive
you will think the same
that it should be Investigated
I have been praying every
since that it will be cleared
up, and I will continue to
pray to that effect, and I

nos, [illegible] Enough [illegible] beling
That the Lord will hear and
Answer my Prayer, I think you
should find out in what way
They do their Killing, there
was a man who said he was
Henry Hutchins he Told me
That he Killed a man while
working at Kingans co. he
said he Threw a Bot on his
Head and Killed him and
at the Hospital They called
at Spinal myfitis, and the
man called him self
Harry Abel he said he Killed

My Brother, Claude by stop
ing him in the neck with
a knife, another case is a
woman she confessed to me
that she mixed varnish
remover and wood alcohol
together and poisoned her
two husband at the same
time, Charlie Payne & Bruce
Hampshire was their name
her name at that time was
Sadie Hampshire, but I
think she is married again
another husband also met
a tragic death his name
was Porter, Yours Truly
Mrs. Ethel Tibbett
1508 N. Ohio St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.



# THE FISHER

WRITING TABLET

No. M-101

61-7398-132

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

WASHINGTON, D.C.
OCT 5
12-PM
936

Moved-Left No Address
Unknown
No such number
No such street
No such office in state
Insufficient address
Not at this address
Not in directory
Not delivered after 3 attempts
Not claimed
Not in zone indicated
Not in Postal Guide
Refused
Route No. 152

LOS ANGELES CALIF.
OCT 1
1963

UP.N
RITER
LAIMED

CALIF.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

October 5, 1936.

Mr. James A. Cooper,
1109 Summit Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your undated postal card which was received at this Bureau on September 28, 1936, in which you request this Bureau to undertake an investigation as to the activities of the Black Legion.

I must advise you that the matter of which you complain does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for which reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any affirmative action in the premises.

Very truly yours,

J. Ed. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

162

FAM/C.J.

61-7398-133

123

I strongly urge investigation by your department of Black Legion activities, since I believe it is too big for one state to handle properly.

Respectfully Yours,

James A. Cooper
1109 Summit Ave
Los Angeles

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-23

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 29 1936 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

ONE

ack'd
OCT 6 1936

OCT 6 1936

24

KPM:CJ

61-7398-134

RECORDED

October 14, 1936.

Mrs. August Teal,
1021 West 17th Street,
Muncie, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

Please be informed that the letter which you directed to Mr. W. H. Drane Lester of this Bureau, dated October 1, 1936, has been brought to my attention for appropriate consideration.

I must advise you that the matters of which you complain do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Indianapolis

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 14 1936

125

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

506 Fletcher Trust Building
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 5, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Mrs. August Teal and
Mrs. Magdalene Linnie Porter,
Muncie, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Upon my arrival in Muncie, Indiana, on the afternoon of October 2, 1936 to fill a speaking engagement there, I found the enclosed letter awaiting me, which purports to be from one Mrs. August Teal, 1021 Seventeenth Street, Muncie, Indiana, and sets out alleged threats against and persecution of her friend, Mrs. Magdalene Linnie Porter.

These two women contacted me at the conclusion of my talk in Muncie upon the morning of October 3, 1936.

They stated substantially the same things contained in the enclosed letter, and I pointed out to them that the matters about which they complained did not constitute any Federal violation over which the Federal Bureau of Investigation had jurisdiction.

Both of these women were very unkempt in appearance and are apparently religious fanatics suffering from a persecution complex.

You might desire to acknowledge receipt of this letter to Mrs. Teal as a matter of record, stating that the matters contained therein do not constitute a violation over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Very truly yours, 61-7398-134

W. H. Drane Lester

W. H. Drane Lester,
Inspector,

Enclosure

OCT 15 1936

RECORDED & INDEXED.

126

Mrs Porter stays here at my home [illegible]
month and a half [illegible] to be shacked [illegible] 1438
day. The house she gave up is fine and ready for [illegible] 021 W. 17th
occupation. [illegible] and they [illegible] off [illegible] Mrs Val. Muncie

Mayor W H Drane Lester  As God is in Heaven the truth

Dear sir:-

I noticed in the newspaper [illegible]
tion of the Muncie Press of your presence here as a
Edgar Hoover, G-man and am sending a most earnes
sincere appeal to you for help in something a friend
and I was attempting to later send for help to Washing
if all appeals to justice here in Muncie fail
am sure you should at least hear of it and re
port it to Mr Hoover. We had even considered tru
ing to see President Roosevelt if possible [illegible]
ing no means and our mail so severely censored
the P.O. here in Muncie we thought of getting an
appeal to you in person. There is a reign of terror
here in the s. west part of town sponsored by Bl
Legion terrorists and one particular victim who is
friend Mrs Magdalene Lunie Porter a highly intellegent
woman who had always lived as decent a life as she possi
could with a bawdy [illegible] house on the west side [illegible]
on 12th & Sampson [illegible]ve. Terrorized in a systematic
manner for nearly 18 yrs having everything stolen from
openly & secretly by lies or force, first her building mai
household goods, then finally her husband & house to
from her by dastardly indecent false or trick pictures shown to the
[illegible] and the house given her husband and a lower
[illegible] to the Pres

thing is getting to [illegible]
bout their husbands & homes on fail [illegible]
to their loan companies. W[illegible] ches a gu[illegible]
less death, several fighter having went that way.
[illegible] highest of [illegible] are [illegible]
since my friend and I are fighting it after years of [illegible]
torture night after night from electrical wires [illegible]
thrust through the rickety walls of our homes [illegible]
nearly electrocuted and when we "kick" are called [illegible]
to keep people of authority from believing us. [illegible]
years of fighting to obtain a lawyer, being kicked [illegible]
themselves, my friend Mrs Porter, hi[illegible]

Be careful whom you allow this out [illegible]

Murphy whose office is above [illegible]
not. If they really have him. Another lawyer Thomas Miller a[illegible]
My friend had no place to stay but a little shac[illegible]
by herself and hired watchman among goods on the
lot. The goods were thrown out of doors by Sheriff [illegible]
is main tool for business and are still there on lot dam[illegible]
by weather. Mrs Porter stated there but could no l[illegible]
nightly shooting by gathered gang who had at le[illegible]
12 people lined [illegible] her son was and is no secret.
Pay Capt. Police
Bennington made them close on [illegible] when he saw
it. He even tried to get her brother to [illegible] her insan[illegible]
fled state, refusing. Leader of gang now is hiring [illegible]
to shoot us. Get my husband and made an attempt
to door but scare us terribly by shooting open[illegible]
into gunman hired by Loan Comp. which is trying to
death. The worst man faced us with gun [illegible]
[illegible] determined stand deadly a[illegible]
[illegible] Only the grace of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] post script [illegible] added [illegible] after thought. I forgot to tell that Mrs Porter flees for her life to this friend & that and each friend who shelters her rightly is in danger of having her house torn down if she is not killed or injured with Mrs Porter. Mrs Porter and I are very religious and spend a good part of our time in fervent prayer.

This gang [illegible] and threatened openly to my husband that they would tear our house down over our heads to get and kill Mrs Porter and to kill us if we keep interfering and I saw them even offer money to my husband to betray her but

Mrs Porter had to live in a state of siege for [illegible] in that [illegible] Bodie

he evade them. He was not to refuse them outright nor antagonize them. They are so revengeful and have beaten several men to the point of death or insanity [illegible] members of their gang. Last night they kicked my screen door in. They open peaches out my home windows, walls etc as fast as I mend them. My husband is exposed to them daily and once after being in a doped [illegible] and was kept in hospital for several days while the gang terrorized Mrs Porter & I. They are fast ruining my name now by nefarious talk and doings but Mrs Porter and I hold fast to God's promise to rid this town of this terrible gang of people

Mrs S

JAS:MK October 8, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I have noted that many threatening communications containing demands for money are presently being forwarded and signed "The Black Legion". Inquiries conducted relative to such communications have in no instance indicated that the communications received were actually forwarded by the organization known as "The Black Legion" or by members thereof.

In the past it has been my practice to inform you in each instance of this kind that inquiries conducted were being limited to those involving the threatening communication, and that no inquiries were being conducted relative to "The Black Legion".

You are advised that in the event further communications bearing similar signatures are received, appropriate inquiries will be conducted to ascertain if there has been a violation of the Federal extortion statutes under which this Bureau conducts investigation, but that no inquiries will be conducted relative to "The Black Legion".

Very truly yours,

RECORDED 61-7398-135

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Carroll

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 8 1936
FBI

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 8 1936
P.M.

KRM:VTL
61-7398-136 October 21, 1936.

ENCLOSURE

Mr. [redacted]
American Falls, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

I sincerely appreciate the interest which prompted you in directing your letter to me dated October 8, 1936, with reference to the activities of the Black Legion, and with further reference to the illicit traffic in narcotics.

I regret to advise you that the matters referred to in your letter do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason it would be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

In keeping with your request, however, you are advised that matters relating to illicit traffic in narcotics come within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. It is, therefore, suggested that you may desire to direct a letter to Honorable H. J. Anslinger, Commissioner, Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Butte

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 21 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted]

[redacted]
AMERICAN FALLS
IDAHO

October 8, 1936.

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is being written to inquire whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, concerns itself with activities of the Black Legion or the Illicit traffic in narcotics.

More than a year ago two organizers came to American Falls and formed a branch of the Black Legion. A dental surgeon, Dr. Hilding Beckstrom, a drug addict, was placed at the head of the local society.

Subsequently Dr. Beckstrom went to the apartment [redacted] and attempted to assassinate him. [redacted] grappled with Dr. Beckstrom, and by the time the intruder was able to draw a .38-calibre automatic pistol from his pocket the assistant manager of the hotel arrived and prevented him from firing. Later Dr. Beckstrom was fined $25.00 for carrying a concealed weapon.

We have very good reason to believe that Beckstrom is interested in the sale of narcotics, with at least two more persons implicated. In the event that one of your investigators can be sent here we will furnish him with the names of men known to have joined the Black Legion; with the names of several drug addicts, and with evidence tending to show that drugs are being handled. We can furnish considerable information.

If your department does not investigate cases of this kind, will you please advise me as to the proper federal bureau with which to communicate?

Respectfully,

[redacted]

Acte 10/21/36
cc: Butte
Rim

OCT 22 1936

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-136

JAS:RD

RECORDED 61-7398-137

October 14, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McMAHON

I am in receipt of your memorandum of September 29, 1936 and have noted that all communications of a threatening nature received in the Department in the future, will be transmitted to this Bureau without unnecessary handling.

I am returning herewith the letter received in the Department from Mr. K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C. dated September 16, 1936.

I am retaining the other enclosures forwarded with your memorandum.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure 1020079

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Beckham
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Ryan
Miss Forsworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Hardo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 14 1936
A.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

BM

202600-2866

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CFirf

September 29, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Transmitted herewith is a letter, dated September 16, 1936, from Chief Inspector K. P. Aldrich of the Post Office Department, inclosing three envelopes mailed at Detroit, Michigan and addressed to Mr. E. Jones, The City News Store, Charlottesville, Virginia; Mr. E. Eiberger, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Mr. O. K. W. Howard, The Smoke Shop, Florence, South Carolina. Each of these envelopes contained an identical sheet, herewith attached, bearing a pictorial representation of a masked person posing in a manner now popularly construed to symbolize the "Black Legion".

While an examination of the envelopes and sheets in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal law or laws, the same are being forwarded to you for consideration in connection with a recent telephone conversation had between Mr. Tamm of your Division, and Mr. Fish of this Division. This conversation concerned the possibility of routing all future threatening letters received in this Division from the Division of Records of the Department to your Division first for such finger printing purposes as may be deemed necessary before they are transmitted by you to this Division for consideration.

Mr. Tamm agreed to this procedure after it had been indicated to him that the suggestion which was made by Mr. Woll of this Division had received my approval, and that it was thought to be in line with the procedure suggested in your memorandum of August 28, last, to me concerning threatening letters received by Mr. William A. Koren, Niagara Falls, New York. As a result of this conversation, Mr. Mayhall of the Division of Records was instructed by Mr. Fish to transmit to your Division, without unnecessary handling, all future communications of a threatening nature received by the Department.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7348-137

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 16 1936

U. S.

1 ENCL W

Jack 10-14-36

Brien McMahon

BRIEN McMAHON
Assistant Attorney General.

Inclosure No. 788.

TAMM

ONE

EAS:TES

COPY - rd

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Office of The Chief Inspector

Washington

September 16, 1936.

The Honorable

The Attorney General,

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention of the Criminal Division.

Transmitted herewith are three envelopes mailed at Detroit, Michigan, addressed to Mr. E. Jones, The City News Store, Charlottesville, Virginia; Mr. E. Eiberger, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Mr. O. K. W. Howard, The Smoke Shop, Florence, South Carolina. Each of these envelopes, which were all mailed on the same date and apparently at the same point, contains an identical sheet bearing a pictorial representation of a masked person in a pose that is now popularly construed to symbolize the "Black Legion". The addressees of these communications have complained to this Department regarding their receipt through the mails, but none of them could furnish any information as to the identity of the mailer.

The communications are not regarded as unmailable under the postal laws but with the thought that they may be of interest to your Department they are forwarded for such attention as may be deemed advisable.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

/s/ K. P. Aldrich
Chief Inspector.

Inclosures.
P/S

RECORDED

61-2398-137

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 16 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM | DNA | FILE

ENCLW

OCT 20 1936

DETROIT, MICH. 2
AUG 13
12 — M
1936

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

CHEYENNE
AUG 15
1936
WYO.

Mr. E. Eisberger
108 W. 17th St
Cheyenne Wyo

Please deliver
This to the
P.M.
E. Eisberger

DETROIT, MICH.
AUG 13
12 — M.
1938

BUY U. S.
BON
ASK YOUR F

Mr. E. Jones
The City News Store
110 W. Main St
Charlottesville Va

140

DETROIT, MICH.
AUG 13
12 — M
1936

BUY U. S.
BON
ASK YOUR PO

Mr. O.K.W. Howard
The Smoke Shop
P.O. Drawer 684
Florence S.C

61-1398-138
Changed to 9-2242

61-1398-139

EAT:TMF

October 28, 1936

Mr. James H. Blissell,
City Editor,
The Lima News,
Lima, Ohio

Dear Mr. Blissell:

I have received your letter of October 21, 1936, referring to Virgil H. Effinger, alleged to be an officer of the Black Legion, and desire to advise you that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation at this time into the activities or organization of the Black Legion. For your information, the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted by law to the conducting of investigations of violations of specified Federal Statutes and the collecting of evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In the absence of some indication of a violation of some Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, the Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in any situation and consequently has not conducted any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion and is not searching for Virgil H. Effinger.

May I suggest that the information in your possession pertaining to Virgil H. Effinger's whereabouts, be furnished to the state officers of Michigan for appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Nathan
Tolson
Pennington
Clegg
Coffey
Dawsey
Egan
Edwards
Glavin
Harbo
Joseph
Lester
Nichols
Schilder
Lamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 29 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enc.

THE LIMA NEWS
LIMA, OHIO

[redacted]

October 21,1936.

Edgar J. Hoover, Esq.,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Assuming the search for Virgil H. Effinger, Lima man reputed to be a commander of the Black Legion, is still an "active" FBI case, I am writing to inquire into two angles which you may or may not have probed and which may provide a clue as to his whereabouts.

My reporters understand payments have been continued to be paid on his automobile to The Colonial Finance Co., Lima, and that he is a recipient of a pension check monthly for service in the Spanish-American war. If this be true, especially the latter, and the checks have been cashed, a trail might be picked up through endorsements and charges of harboring brought. He should have received checks for September and October. I assume this information would be available to your office from the veterans' administr

Effinger is also reported to be a prodigic eater and we understand that the same large grocery orders are being delivered to his house as before his disappearance.

My writing you is because of the fact the city and county authorities seem to have reached a stalemate in whatever attempts they have made to locate Effinger.

I am enclosing one of the few known pictures of Effinger and which we were successful in obtaining in his "basement office" when the case first broke in Detroit.

Thanking you for anything you may be able to "crack" for us, and assuring you of our desire to work for the upholding of law and order, I am,

RECORDED & INDEXED

Sincerely,

James N. Blissell.

61-7398-13

OCT 26 1936

Send to Mr. Oak 10/26/36

IGHT OF THE
TO KEEP
ARMS

TMM'VTL
61-7398 -140 November 14, 1936.

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
.45 Calibre Colt Automatic
Pistol, Model 1911, #251440 -
THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

Dear Sir:

The Washington Field Office has advised the Bureau that Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War Department, has completed circularizing the nine Army Corps Areas and the nine Ordnance Arsenals and Depots for information concerning the above described pistol, and as a result of this circularization he was unable to locate any record relative to the loss or theft of the above pistol.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington Field Office, Room 4244,
Washington, D. C.

October 29, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
.45 calibre Colt Automatic Pistol,
Model 1911, #251440,
THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Dear Sir:

Reference is again made to your letter dated August 27, 1936, (Bureau File No. 61-7398) and to my letter addressed to you dated September 2, 1936.

Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War Department, has completed circularizing the nine Army Corps Areas and the nine Ordnance Arsenals and Depots for information concerning the above described pistol, and has advised that as a result of same he was unable to locate any record referring to the loss or theft of that pistol.

Very truly yours,

J. M. KEITH,
Special Agent in Charge.

RPB:EE
52-956

Letter Cleveland 11/14/36 Inform

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7398-140

OCT 29 1936

FILE

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Toledo, Ohio.
November 10, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Government Detective;
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir;

According to many reports in this town, there is a very scandelous affair being carried on for the last two years at 2347 Robinwood Ave. There is a machine installed there on the third floor in which poisonous gases have been used. It is of the type that was used in the recent Italian Ethiopian war. There are rumors that it has made many ill in the old west end.

There are a few cars with the same license numbers which have often been seen in front of this residence. For further information you might look up some Ohio numbers. Number 8364 C and 1444 C have been seen in front of this address many times. Also numbers 1566 A and 9540 B, have had passengers who were seen leaving the above address. It is considered something very secret.

Some say that it is a unit of the Black Legion, and many are of the opinion that it can kill a person instantly.

This case should command your immediate attention.

Very sincerely,

A local citizen

License Numbers

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-19
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 13 1936 A. M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLEDO
NOV 11
5 PM
1936
OHIO

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Government Detective
Washington
D.C.

15

ABM:CJ

61-7398-142

RECORDED

November 25, 1936.

Mr. Robert E. Moore,
Superintendent,
Identification Bureau,
Sheriff's Office,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I wish to assure you of my appreciation of your letter of November 9, 1936, to which was attached data with reference to Thomas Cox and the abduction of Robert Penland.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Detroit

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
NOV 27 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

1105 Mills Tower,
San Francisco, California
November 12, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: RE: BLACK LEGION

There are transmitted herewith copies of letters apparently written by one [redacted] San Francisco, California, which were sent to the Commanding General of the Presidio of San Francisco, and also to the Division of Secret Service in San Francisco, concerning the "Black Legion."

No active investigation in connection with this matter will be initiated, unless contrary instructions are received from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman

W. L. LISTERMAN,
Special Agent in Charge

WLL:MLA
Enc/2

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7-97 143

NOV 18 1936

ONE

Washington Field Division, Rm. 4241,
Washington, D.C.

November 25, 1936.

Mr. T. M. Milligan,
Inspector in Charge,
Post Office Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of November 24, 1936 in which you enclosed an anonymous threatening letter referred to your office by the Postmaster at Alexandria, Virginia.

I have carefully reviewed the contents of the letter and same fails to come within the purview of the Federal Statute dealing with extortion. Therefore, no action will be taken by this Bureau.

The enclosures transmitted with your letter of November 24, 1936 are returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

GUY HOTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge.

GH:MHL
ENC.

RECORDED
INDEXED

cc-Bureau with enclosures

61-7398-144

DEC 1 1936

United States Post Office

O
O
P
Y

Alexandria, Va.
Nov. 23, 1936.

Inspector in Charge,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:-

I am sending herewith a letter postmarked at Washington, D.C. Nov. 20, 8.30 p.m., 1936 addressed to Harry's Market, 20 A Hume Ave., Alexandria, Va. which appears to be a threat, for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Postmaster.

61-7398-144

C
O
P
Y

We want you to get
out and get out
quick, if you do not
we will blow your bilding
up, or take you all
for a nice little ride
the black legion

envelope addressed: 201 Hume Ave.

Harrys, Market
20A Hume, Ave.

Alex.
Va.

C o p y

San Francisco, Calif.

November 1, 1936

Mr. Foster, Agent in Charge,
U. S. Secret Service,
San Francisco

Sir:

Thinking perhaps the U.S. Government may be making an investigation of the Black Legion, a subversive set and a menace to our democratic form of Gov't., I submit the names for possible investigation:

(1) Mr. Ralph Croston, sometimes at Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif. (his aunt, Mrs. S. Thomas' place) and sometimes elsewhere in San Francisco, etc. (a former KKK member, etc.)

(2) Mr. Bill Hall, croony of #1, sometimes at Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif.

(3) Mrs. Myra Zimbrick (an aunt of #1 to whom Mrs. S. Thomas was heard to say: "Well, I think the KKK is all right if they make them work." (Poole was a WPA worker and union men as you doubtless know have been attacked by the Black Legion).

Hatred of Jews, Catholics (covertly) Negroes, etc., is strong amongst these elements --- also an unwarranted desire to reform united with corruption.

Yours for the preservation of American democracy and general decency,

(signed) [redacted]

61-7398-143

C O P Y

November 1, 1936

San Francisco, California

Gen. Simonds,
Commanding 9th Corps Area,
Presidio of San Francisco

Sir:

It is understood the Black Legion is active in these parts and so, thinking the Army may wish to or actually be engaged in combating these potential if not already in fact traitors to our Government, and cruel tortures of innocent U. S. Citizens, I submit the following as suspects to be investigated:

(1) Mr. Ralph Croston (former KKK Member, last known to be at his aunt: Mrs. S. Thomas' place, Box. 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif.)

(2) Mr. Bill Hall, (chum, if not fellow member of Black Legion, of #1) Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Cal. (a native of the south)

(3) Mrs. Myra Zimbrick (aunt of #1) to whom Mrs. Thomas was heard to say recently: "Well, I think the KKK are all right if they make them work." (Chas. Poole, WPA worker was killed by Black Legion and union men have also been killed as you doubtless know.)

Yours for the preservation of American democracy and law,

(signed) [redacted]
Citizen

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

**U. S. Department of Justice**

1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

November 27, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
Miscellaneous - Confidential

Dear Sir:

There are attached hereto two typewritten letters, one postmarked August 14, 1936, at 5:00 P.M., addressed to Mr. Albert Phillips, 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, and reading:

> "Mr. Albert Phillips we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T.B. allowence restored to him at once. And restore it from March 1936. If youdont we are going to take you for a ride, and you may never return.
>
> Signed Black Legion"

The other letter is postmarked August 14, 1936, at 5:00 P.M., addressed to Dr. Z.T. Wirtschafter, 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, and reads:

> "Dr. Wirtschafter we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T.B. allowence restored to him at once. And have it restored to him from March first 1936. If you dont we are going to take you for a ride. And you may never return.
>
> Signed Black Legion"

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory examine the attached letters and ascertain the make and style of typewriter used and such other information as will be of value in the investigation of this case. It is also requested that the letters be processed for fingerprints; in this connection it should be remembered that the attached letters were received by Mr. Phillips and Dr. Wirtschafter on August 15, 1936.

Very truly yours,

J.P. MacFARLAND,
Special Agent in Charge

CES/lrl
Enclosures (2)
cc - Indianapolis
Technical Lab.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Date 12 1935

FROM: Technical Laboratory

TO: Single Fingerprint Section

Case Number: 6

No latent fingerprints developed _____

Iodine prints developed on _____

Silver nitrate prints on _____

___Identiscope negatives attached hereto.

REMARKS: _____

E. P. Coffey

By: _____
Examiner.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 12926
952

Laboratory Report

Case: Black Legion; Night Riders; Bullet Club; Miscellaneous-Confidential

Number: 61-7398-145

Specimens: 61-7398-145 Q1 One typewritten letter beginning"Mr. Albert Phillips**
" Q2 One envelope postmarked South Bend, Ind. 2 Aug 14, 193 5 PM.
" Q3 One typewritten letter beginning"Dr. Wirtschafter we**
" Q4 One envelope postmarked South Bend, Ind. 2 Aug 14, 1936 5 PM addressed to Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter.

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 12-3-36 (9:00 AM ft) ( 12-4-36 9:00 A.M. chp)

Examination requested: Document-Fingerprint

Result of examination: Examination by: Lovett
Potter

No latent developed

cc-Indianapolis

161

ral/fs

61-7398-145

December 15, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders; Bullet Club; Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report #112926, in connection with the above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

61-7398-145 Q1 through Q4

DEC 15 1936

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1065099

162

RAL:MM

December 8, 1936.

RECORDED 61-7398-146

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau December 3, 1936.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #1106457

cc-Indianapolis

DEC 9 - 1936

DEC 11 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

163

RAL:MM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 12926

Laboratory Report
~~December 8, 1936.~~

Case: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Number: 61-7398-145

Specimens:

Q1. One typewritten letter beginning: "Mr. Albert Phillips---".
Q2. One envelope postmarked, "South Bend, Indiana, 2, August 14, 1936, 5 P. M.".
Q3. One typewritten letter beginning: "Dr. Wirtschafter we---".
Q4. One envelope postmarked, "South Bend, Indiana, 2, August 14, 1936, 5 P. M." addressed to "Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter".

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 12-3-36

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination: Examination by: Lovett

From a comparison of the typewriting on the instant envelopes and enclosures designated as specimens 145 Q1 through Q4, the conclusion has been reached that they were all typewritten on the same machine.

Due to certain similarities of the letters of the typewriting on the questioned specimens, the conclusion has been reached that the original letters were typewritten on a typewriter equipped with Underwood Pica style type spaced ten letters to the inch. It is probable that this style of type was placed on Underwood machines subsequent to 1927. Also, this style of type was placed on both the Underwood standard and portable typewriters.

The sheet designated as 145 Q1 has a white linen finish, measures approximately 5x5.8", and was evidently torn from a tablet or bound pad as indicated by red wax or binding material at the top of the sheet. Also, this sheet was torn from a larger sheet to the approximate dimensions as given above. The envelope designated as specimen Q2 is plain white, has a smooth finish, and measures approximately 5¼x3.2". This envelope has a bond texture. The sheet designated as specimen Q3 has a linen finish, measures approximately 5x8", has a wove texture, and was probably torn from a tablet as evidenced by the presence of red binding material along the top edge. The envelope designated as specimen Q4 is plain white, has a smooth finish, and measures approximately 5¼x3.2". None of the above specimens contains a watermark.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

DEC 16 1936

61-7398-146

DEC 1 1936

164

The original evidence was treated for the development of latent fingerprints but none was developed.

A photographic copy of the letters will be placed in the Laboratory's anonymous letter file for comparison purposes. In the event an identification is effected your office will be notified.

Photographic copies of the specimens submitted will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITTAL.

1-Bureau
1-Cleveland
1-Indianapolis
1-Laboratory

December 18 1936

Mr Hoover

Quite some time ago, there was a piece in the paper, about a colored man, being burned in his home. This crime was committed by the B.L. The man, who was in charge was the man who was repeatedly named as the head of the B.L. in several States. He is middle age squat, with a pouch. He wore a old fashioned Row crown derby hat, dark suit white shirt, white sock's Low shoes

Black Legion

Anonymous communication

RECORDED
INDEXED
DEC 23 1936
62-7378-147
DEC 21 1936
ONE FILM

He had with him, at least five boys. He showed a sort of insane delight. The house had a boxlike front of red brick. The little barn build unto it, was of wood, and jutted out at the sides; one side the entrance to the barn and the other to the house. One of the boys did some thing in the corner of the house and barn, and then they made a chain, and tiptoed over to the other corner, where a second shed

is still going on. Two night ago, I saw a other hendish thing done. This time the shack, probable was all wood, and poor than the first. There was a man, with a black scull cap on his head. He had, what looked li a small balloon, mad of strong canvas. On the end was a drill, and he was drilling a hol in the back wall, and after that releasing some poison gas, or of deadly fumes, turni

This is only a few nights ago, so perhaps the poor man or family, has not even been found.
On both nights there was no moon.

RECEIVED
FILES SECTION
1968 NOV 27 AM 10 37

Mr. Hyman
Supt of Schools
Washington

U.S. STA. N.Y.
MADISON
DEC 18
1968

169

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
McGuire

# ACCUSED FOUNDER OF "LEGION" IS DEAD

**Isaac (Peg Leg Stull) White, Held as First Head of Detroit Cult, Is Victim of Pneumonia.**

*By the Associated Press.*

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 21.—Isaac (Peg Leg Stull) White, arrested as the founder of the Black Legion of Michigan, died at a hospital yesterday of complications arising from lobar pneumonia.

White died without talking about his activities in the Black Legion, of which he was said to have been the first brigadier general.

White was one of twenty-two alleged members of the Black Legion indicted in Detroit several months ago on charges of criminal syndicalism.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
Forwarded by New York Office

DEC 21 1936

NOT RECORDED INDEXED

61-7587-147X

170

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: Cleveland, Ohio — FILE No. 62-3

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland, Ohio | 12/30/36 | 12/30/36 | Clyde E. Smith |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB | MISCELLANEOUS - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: In accordance with instructions contained in letter of reference, further investigation to be carried on in case entitled, UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter; Albert Phillips, Victims, EXTORTION; Bureau File No. 9-2242. Therefore, this case is being considered

- - C

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated December 24, 1936, Bureau file No. 9-2242.

DETAILS: Pending investigative activity in this matter is, in accordance with suggestion contained in reference letter, to be carried on in case entitled, UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter; Albert Phillips - Victims, EXTORTION.

Therefore, this case is being considered

- C L O S E D -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ... DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY ... ON 10-3-77

| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 61-7348-146 | JAN 5 1937 | |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT | | | JAN 8 - 1937 | |
| 6 - Bureau | | JAN 4 - A.M. | | |
| 2 - Cleveland | | | | |

ONE STAT. SECT.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

171

KRM:CJ

RECORDED 61-7598-149

January 12, 1937.

Mr. Paul E. Enstrom, Superintendent,
Lincoln County Schools,
Box 508,
North Platte, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Enstrom:

In acknowledging your undated letter received here on January 4, 1937, I wish to advise you that this Bureau has no prepared pamphlets or other information with respect to the Black Legion.

Matters pertaining to the Black Legion do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason data of the type requested by you are not available.

I can only suggest that you might obtain the desired information from Mr. Fred W. Frahm, Superintendent of Police, Detroit, Michigan and Mr. Oscar G. Olander, Commissioner, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan.

The self-addressed, stamped envelope forwarded with your communication is being returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Encl. #1020059

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
CC - Omaha
JAN 13 1937
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Eve

County Sup't Office
Lincoln County
North Platte, Nebraska

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Could you send immediately pamphlets and substantial information concerning the criminal disclosures of the workings of the "Black Legion" in the United States at large?

We would especially like to know the exposures of this organization in the state of Michigan.

If you could give us other references of other places where information could be procured we would appreciate it.

Yours Sincerely

P. E. Estrom

Co. Supt. Lincoln County, Nebr.
To be used for Educational Purposes

Returned
Incl
Eve
Ack.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED.

61-2398-149
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 4 1937 P. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

173

61-1398-150
Changed to
9-2242

Toledo Ohio
Jan,19,1937

Mr J.E.Hoover

Chief U.S.Bureau of Investigation.

Dear Sir:-

I am submitting this letter to you for you to think deeply befo you go to far in your investigation of this Legion of Americans,or as the Papers call it the Black Legion,I am submitting with this letter to you,T Principles of this Legion of Americans as I understand it. I am also send you The Bloody Oath of the Knights Of Columbus,As printed from the Congr al Record, SIXTY SECOND CONGRESS,THIRD SESSION,(VOL, 49. No,50.P.P.3261- ~~~~~~~, February,15, 1913.)

The above you will find printed on the Top of the Oath.

I want you to compare the Oath you have of the LEGION OF AMERICANS or a call it The Black Legion,with the K.of C. Oath,and think in your own Hea which is the most dangerous to this Great Republic of The UNITED STATES AMERICA.

Every Protestant Organization that has ever been formed,has been broken by direct or indirect means by such unworthy people,you know it is the T except some few Organizations such as MASONIC, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIS AND T ODD FELLOWS & a few others.& even now as you can see in their OATH,They against any thing that is PROTESTANT & all Protestant People wherever t may be. No Organization should be blamed for what some Criminals that m members do,You take the Trouble that was in Detroit Mich,If you will no who was at the head of the Investigation,you can see if you are broad m as I think you are,and you can Judge for yourself that they are just tr to break up another Protestant Organization,That had for its foundatio Principles of Genuine Protestant American Citizens,That choose to keep Republic as it was founded.Now in Toledo Ohio,Lucas County.Who is at t or instigator of the Investigation,Who is causing all this Trouble abo Organization of Legion of Americans or as called the Black Legion, One Unworthy of being called an American,Mr.Francis Murphy.I am asking you general way to investigate Mr Francis Murphy and his League against We Fascism,It is Known that he was teaching Communism in the Recreation Pr of the W.P.A. Drawing his Compensation from the UNITED STATES GOVERNM According to my thoughts I do not think that him doing this is CONSTIT

I only hope that you will do all that is in your power for the Good P American People before it is to late. This man Mr,Lyman,G. (Buck) De ne of the most Patriotic Man in America to day, His Father was a Civ Western, He also has served in a Great American War, was also a Mounte Officer on the Pennsylvania Police Force,in Troop B.stationed at Wyom Also on the Mounted Force of the City of Toledo Ohio,This Man tryed i way possible to Reorganize this Legion in Ohio.He was Demoted and Dis for the Good he was trying to do the Organization.and now has to suff trying to help all men and put the organization on a more firm Americ foundation,with all the Just principles that belong to all Free men as ordained by ALMIGHTY GOD THE GREAT SPIRIT of all mankind wherever may be. I am telling you and all the rest of we Protestant People,sh the Fact that he gets his Job back and in good standing,instead o to destroy his good Character and standing in this Community and the Republic. L.G.(Buck)Dear. was loved by all who knew him, He never ha charge placed against him in all his 19 year as a Police Officer of of Toledo. I only hope that you wont be led by the ALIEN Minded Peop who are against his Great American Principles.

Respectfully Your's

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

61-7548

FEDERAL BUREA

JAN

RECORDED
&

175

ALLEG BLOODY OATH OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

as printed from the congressional record sixty second Congress third session
VOL. 49 (49,No.50, H.P. 3201--62, FEBRUARY, 15, 1913.

I _____ Now in the presence of Almighty God,The blessed Virgin Mar
The Blessed St John the Baptist,The Holy Apostles St,Peter, & St,Paul,& All
Saints,Sacred Host of Heaven,& to you my Ghostly Father,& St Ignatius,in the
ification,of the Paul the III.& continue to the present,do by the womb of t
Virgin MARY,the Matrix of GOD,& the Rod of JESUS,Christ,declare & Swear,that
Holiness,the pope is Christ's Vice-Regent,& is the True & only head of the C
or universal Church throughout the whole world.& that by virtue of the Keys
binding & loosing,given his Holiness by my Savior Jesus Christ,He hath power
depose heritical Kings,Princes,States,Commonwealths,& Governments.That they
safely destroyed,Therefore to the utmost of my power,I will defend this Ho
& his Holiness right & costum against all usurpers of the heretical or prot
authority whatever, especialy the Luthern Church,of Germany.Holland,Denmark
Norway.& the New pretended authority & churches,of England,Scotland,& Bra
same,now established in Ireland,& on the Continent of America,& elsewher
adherence in regard that theymay be usurped & Heretical opposing the Sacred
Church of Home,I now denounce & disown any allegience as due to any heritic
Prince,or State, Named protestant or Liberals.or Obedience to any of there
Magistrates or Officers,I do further declare that I will help assist & advi
or any of His Holiness agents.in any place where I should be.in Switzreland
Holland,or America.or in any other territory,I shall come to,& do my utmost
destroy the HERETICAL PROTESTANT OR MASONIC DOCTRINES,& destroy all their
powers.legal or otherwise.I do further promise & declare,that not withsta
am despenced with to assume any Religion Heretical for the propagation of
Mother Church,& keep secret & private all her agents & counsels from time
as they intrust me,& not divulge directly or indirectly by word,or any cir
whatever,but to excuse all that should be proposed.Given in charge or disc
unto me, by my ghostly father.or any of his sacred order.I do further prom
declare,That I will have no opinion or will of my own.or any mental Reserv
whatsoever, even as a corpse or cadaver. (PERINDE.AC.CADAVER.) but will un
-ingly, obey each & every Command that I may receive from my Superiors in
MALITIA OF THE POPE & OF JESUS CHRIST.That I will go to any part of the wo
whithersoever I may be sent.to the frozen reigons of the North,or the Burn
of the Desert of Africa.or the Jungles of India,to the Centre of Civiliz
Europe,or to the wild haunts of the Barbarous Savages of America.without
or repining,& will be submissive in all things whatsoever,is communicated
[illegible]
ity,of the persons,whatever be their condition in life,either public or
as I etb any time may be directed to so do,by any agent of the Pope,or Su
the Brotherhood of the Holy Father,or the Society of Jesus,in conformatic
I hereby dedicate my life.Soul & all Corpora Powers & with the Dagger whi
recieve I will subscribe my name written in my own Blood.in testimony the
and I prove false or weaken in my determination,may my brethern & fellow
Malitia of the Pope.cut off my hands & feet,My throat from Ear to
Belly opened & sulphur burned therein,with all the punishment,that can b
upon me by Demons in eternal hell forever.That I will in Voting always v
Knight of Columbus in preference to a Protestant.especially a Mason.& th
y party so to do. that if two Catholics are on the Ticket,I will
ich is the better supporter of the Mother Church.& vote according
deal with or employ a Protestant if in my power to Deal So.& em
e,That I will place Catholic Girls in Protestant Family's of the
will provide my self with Arms & Ammunition,that I may be in read
it is passed,or I am Commanded to defend the Church,either as an I
the MALITIA OF THE POPE.All of which I _____ do swear by t
the blessed sacrement which I am now to recieve,to perform & o
is my OATH.In testimony thereof I take the Most Holy & blessed
Christ,& witness the same further with my name written with the
dipped in my own Blood.& seal in the face of this Holy Sacr
SIGNATURE.

17

THE FOLLOWING IS MY DECLARED PRINCIPLES, ALWAYS WERE AND ALWAYS SHALL BE.

I believe in Almighty God, The Great Spirit, Who is the Creator and preserve of the Universe, and all that in them is. And also in his SON JESUS CHRIST, our Redeemer, and in the HOLY BIBLE his revealed Willf all mankind in thi world. I believe in private Judgement, and Freedom of pinion, as establishe y MARTIN LUTHER in the begining of the Reformation. nd carried on by PROTESTANT PEOPLE the world over. This intelligence establishes good Gover nd causes the perpetuity of good Government wherever it may be establish ll Public Schools are very essential to the Safety and good Government o ny STATE OR NATION. That any person or persons, Disloyal to our form of Representative Government, or our PUBLIC SCHOOLS, should be severely dealt by the BAR OF JUSTICE, That the Forcing of any Citizen in the exercise o his Constitutional Rights, under the guise of POLITICAL, SPIRITUAL, OR RELI AUTHORITY, Should be punished by the SUPREME BAR OF JUSTICE of this Great Republic of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, with the Severist Punishment the can deal out to them. I believe it is the BORN DUTY of every citizen of t UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, To DEFEND our DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE, OUR CONSTITUTION, & THE BAR OF JUSTICE, and all our Institutions keeping them clean of all Corrupt Influences, and against all assailants, wether by wor of mouth, or propoganda, or with Arms from within or without. That our HERIT OF FREEDOM may be passed on to our Posterity unimpared, The way our Forefa intended it to remain. I shall always cherish the memories of the NOBLE MI OF ALL AGES, and of whatever Country, That have fought for and caused to be established, CIVIL, &, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, WITH THE FREEDOM OF THOUGHT WORD A ACTION TO ANY PEOPLES. The names of these GREAT & NOBLE MEN, are an inspi to untiring VIGILANCE in upholdinh these Institution's, That were purcha bys Blood & Treasure of our Forefathers in this GREAT LAND OF FREEDOM. CONSTITUTION OF THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND OUR DECLARATION OF IN -ENDANCE, AND OUR BAR OF JUSTICE, is what I uphold and teach to any one i ent of any ORGANIZATION, & the Just Principles therein taught. I have no Secret Principles, or no Hidden Aims, it is all on the surface, open and be GOD ALMIGHTY THE GREAT SPIRIT, in Purity & Justice, & for the Universal Li of every Man, Woman, and, Child, of ALMIGHTY GOD THE GREAT SPIRIT wherever t may be. To Propogate these Principles all the peoples of these UNITED ST OF AMERICA, Should be United by a Solemn Oath of HONOR, FRIENDSHIP, TRUTH A RIGHTEOUSNESS, VIRTUE, INDUSTRY, AND PATRIOTISM. That our Heretage of Freed may not be taken away by such false Doctrines as COMMUNISM, BOLSCHIVISM, NAZISM, FACISM, or any other kind of ISM'S from within or without. The Pe of this Country have Ruled themselves for over 150 Years and are well a to continue that duty, Till GABRIEL BLOWS HIS HORN. all the People must s Shoulder to Shoulder, with the Ballot or Otherwise, If necessary. To uphold retain our CONSTITUTION, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE, AND OUR GREAT BAR ICE, Which gives us Freedom of Thought Word & Action, This we should be is never taken awayfrom our People in this UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I SHALL FIGHT FOR THE ABOVE PRINCIPLES AT ANY TIME IT SHOULD BECOME NEC

ME IN THIS COUNTRY ARE BOUND BY BIRTHTO UPHOLD THESE PRINCIPLES IN OUR OF ANY ORGANIZATION WHATEVER.

Respectfully submitted to all the Pe
of this Republic of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY

S. G. Buck Deus

United Spanish War Vetern.
Egbert Camp # 10

177

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

TOLEDO, OHIO

TOLEDO
JAN 19
10 30 PM
1937
OHIO

(PERSONAL)

CHIEF. MR J. E. HOOVER

U.S. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON. D.C.

Los Angeles, California
January 19, 1937

Dear Sir:

Unknown [illegible] Mr. Blanchard Matthews, Chief of Police in the Warner Bros. Motion Picture Studio at Burbank, California, telephonically advises that at the request of Mr. Harry Warner he was offering to this division any cooperation that he could render in connection with the letter received by the manager of the Strand Theatre at Forty-Second and Broadway, New York City, which it is believed threatened the manager if he persisted in displaying the motion picture "Black Legion", which it was alleged in the threatening letter was of an anti-semitic nature.

In my conversation with Mr. Matthews he recalled that at the time this motion picture was in production and on an occasion when I was at the Warner Bros. Studio at Burbank, the director of the picture, Mr. Mayo, had stated that a number of people had protested to him because of the theme of the picture and because of [illegible] suggested to Mr. Matthews that he might obtain from Mr. Mayo's files any letters that Mr. Mayo might have received along this line. He stated that he would do this.

In the event that the Los Angeles division can secure any information along the line of the above that would be of assistance, please advise.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HANSON
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-152

JHH/WL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 28 1937
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

172

LMC:EEM
RECORDED 61-7398-153

February 10, 1937.

Mr. Robert F. Jones,
Prosecuting Attorney,
Allen County,
1008 Lima Trust Building,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 28, 1937, requesting the aid of this Bureau in apprehending Virgil K. Effinger, who is wanted at Detroit, Michigan, on a charge of criminal syndicalism. It is noted that Effinger is apparently hiding out at Lima and may be receiving protection from local officials.

Please be advised that the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of violations of specific Federal laws. As the facts set forth in your letter do not appear to relate to any violation of a Federal law coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I regret that no active investigation can be made in this matter. I shall be pleased, however, to place a wanted notice in the Identification files of this Bureau so that you will be notified in case any information concerning Effinger is received. If such action is desired, it is respectfully requested that you furnish the full name of Effinger, his description, and his photograph and a copy of his fingerprints if available.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate with you in all matters of mutual interest, I am

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 10 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC - Cleveland

100

OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ALLEN COUNTY
1008 LIMA TRUST BUILDING
LIMA, OHIO

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ROBERT F. JONES
ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
JOHN H. DAVISON
M. B. JENKINS

January 28, 1937

J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am concerned with the apprehension of Virgil E. Effinger, who is wanted on a charge of Criminal Syndicalism in Detroit, Michigan. He has been extradited and a warrant issued by the Governor of the State of Ohio to the Sheriff of Allen County and he has not been apprehended since the warrant was issued in August.

There is a great amount of rumor in this vicinity that members of the police department and high city officials are members of the Black Legion. For this reason rumors prevail that Effinger is hid in the city of Lima and reports come to this office from reputable sources that he has been seen on the city streets. It is needless to discuss the effect upon respect of the people of Lima for the police department with this sort of stigma attached to them.

Mrs. [redacted] leased a home to him several years ago which is now vacant, and a letter came to Effinger at that address and she has possession of the letter. I have not taken this matter up with the local postal inspector, hoping that your department could be of some help to us in locating him. She will hold the letter, per my instructions, and if you decide that it will be of any probative value and that you can help in this matter I will forward it to you.

Let me say again I sincerely request that you help locate Virgil E. Effinger because of the widespread effect upon law enforcement in this community failure to locate him has. This is a situation which you can readily see county officials cannot cope with and the membership of the Black Legion is reputed to be so large in this section that one cannot hazard a guess as to whom might be depended upon.

RECORDED

Yours very truly,

Robert F. Jones

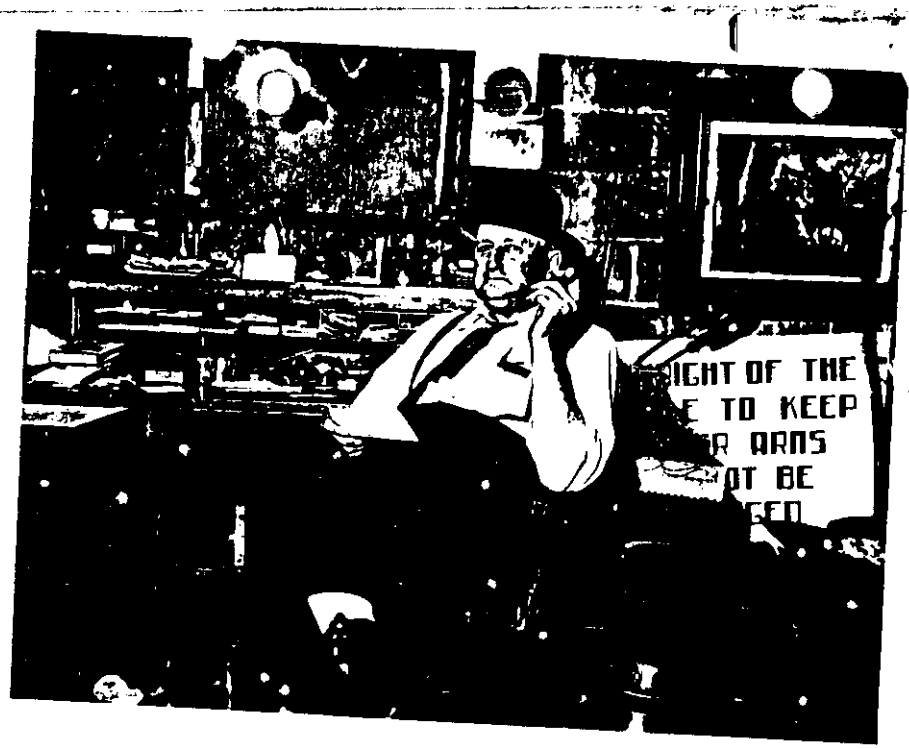
Prosecuting Attorney
Allen County, Ohio

61-7398-153

FEB 1 1937

RFJ:AN

Ack. 2-11-37 Lima.
cc. Cler.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E TO KEEP
R ARMS
OT BE

RECORDED

HR:RD
61-7398 - 154 February 10, 1937

Mr. Don V. Fisher,
Box 57,
Gerry, New York.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 2, 1937 with reference to an advertisement appearing in a column of the "Jamestown Morning Post" relative to the Black Legion.

Please be advised that the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited to certain specific Federal offenses, and the matter referred to in your letter does not come within the jurisdiction of this Bureau.

Thanking you for your interest in the Bureau, I am,

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Buffalo

(copy of advertisement attached)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
FEB 10 1937

124

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
BOX # 57.
GERRY.N.Y.

FEB 3
N.Y.

MR. J.EDGAR HOOVER. CHIEF DEPT. JUSTICE.
WASHINGTON.
D.C.

**Classified Advertising Received Until 9 P. M.**

# The Want Ads Serve

## Automotive

### Automobiles for Sale. 1

1932 Chev. Coach, radio, hot water heater, electric fan, good rubber, cash price $200. 25 McDaniel after 5 o'clock evenings.

1935 FORD COUPE, heater, A-1 condition, $395. W. L. Nuttall & Son, Ford Dealers, Sherman, N. Y.

EXCEPTIONAL
USED CAR BUYS
WITH GUARANTEED MILEAGE

'36 Plymouth Tudor, 7,000 miles with trunk
'34 Airflow 6 P. Sedan, 20,000 miles
'34 Plymouth DeL. Sedan 18,000 miles
'33 Chrysler Sedan, 18,000 miles
'32 Pontiac Coach, 2,000 miles
'33 Plymouth Coupe, R. S.
'34 Ford DeL. Coach
'32 P. B. Coach
'32 Dodge 5 Pass. Coupe
'31 Ford Coach
'30 Ford Coupe

Many more light cheap cars still good transportation

GLENN NEWHOUSE,
CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH
DEALER,
SHERMAN, N. Y.
PHONE 82-A.

SAFETY TESTED
USED CARS

1936 OLDSMOBILE 6 COUPE
1936 OLDSMOBILE 8 COACH, Trunk
1936 OLDSMOBILE 8 SEDAN, Trunk
1936 CHEVROLET COACH, Trunk
1935 FORD DELUXE SEDAN
1935 PLYMOUTH COUPE
1934 FORD DELUXE COACH
1933 FORD DELUXE SEDAN
1934 FORD V-8 COUPE
1935 OLDSMOBILE 8 SEDAN
1934 PLYMOUTH COUPE
1931 OLDSMOBILE COUPE
1932 CHEVROLET COUPE DELUXE
1929 ESSEX COACH
1929 REO SEDAN

TRUCKS

1934 DODGE DELUXE PANEL
1931 FORD A SEDAN, DELIVERY
1935 CHEVROLET 1½ TON CHASSIS AND CAB
1935 INTERNATIONAL PICKUP

Easy Terms Easy Payments

NEW EAGLE MOTORS

OLDSMOBILE
SALES & SERVICE
FORD REPAIRING
G. M. C. TRUCKS
COVERED WAGON CAMP
TRAILERS.

Washington at Tenth St.
Phone 5176

### Auto Accessories. 2A

AUTO GLASS installed at lower prices than elsewhere. Rosen

## Business Service

### Dressmaking, Millinery. 30A

FUR COLLARS RESTYLED by expert furrier. Landy Bros. Phone 7976.

## Employment

### Help Wanted—Female. 32

GIRL wanted for part time housework, one living on South side preferred. References required. Write Box T-70 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—All women and girls interested in their future to learn mysteries and powers of the Black Legion. Don't remain in ignorance. See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P. M.

WANTED—Competent young lady with at least several years experience as bookkeeper in an Industrial establishment, as an assistant bookkeeper. In your reply give full particulars covering previous employment, salary and age. Write W-70 Post.

WANTED—Refined lady about middleaged with sales experience. Good opportunity for right party. Call after 6 P. M., at 37 Walnut Street.

WANTED—Experienced beauty operator with following in first-class shop. W-69 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—Girl or woman for general housework. Stay nights. 272 S. Main St., upstairs.

WIDOWER wishes middleaged or older Christian lady as housekeeper. Good home. Address X-70 Jamestown Post.

### Help Wanted—Male. 33

EXPERIENCED salesman, local work. Leads furnished. Must be able earn $200 monthly. Phone 56-864 evenings.

I WILL select men to train for Electric Refrigeration and Air Conditioning positions, experience unnecessary. Write Mr. McConnell, Electric Refrigeration Box R-70 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—Experienced metal press operator and spot welder. Manufacturers' Association Employment Bureau, 319 Pine.

WANTED—Red blooded men to learn mysteries and powers of Black Legion. Learn now! Don't remain in ignorance! See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P. M.

WANTED—Middleaged man for farm, single, reliable, good teamster and milker. References. Address N-70 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—Man, with car, between the ages 25-40 years. Applicant will be trained in the collection and sales division of our business under personal training and direction of our assistant manager. Drawing account against sales commission also collecting commission. Paid while learning. Position permanent. Apply 325 No. Main. Mr. Walsh or Mr. Clymer.

WANTED—Licensed pharmacist for full time job. Write D-70 Jamestown Post.

## Live Stock

### Horses, Cattle, Vehicles. 45

1-3 YEAR Holstein heifer, fresh soon. Phone Panama 112. John S. Graves, Ashville, N. Y.

EXPRESS LOAD OF ILL. HORSES ON SALE AT MY BARNS ON KENNEDY-ELLINGTON ROAD. 28 HEAD OF AS GOOD THICK CHUNKS AND BIG HORSES AS YOU HAVE SEEN IN MANY A DAY. I BOUGHT THESE HORSES MYSELF DIRECT FROM FARMERS IN FULTON AND KNOX COUNTIES IN ILL. IN THIS LOAD IS A PAIR OF REAL DARK DAPPLED GREY GELDINGS THAT WOULD SUIT THE MOST CRITICAL BUYER. 1 PR. PURE WHITE GELDINGS, WT. 3,400 LBS. SOME SINGLE MARES IN FOAL AND SOME MATCHED TEAMS OF MARES. 1 FLASHY COLORED PAIR OF THICK ROAM GELDINGS WITH BLAZE FACES AND WHITE MARKINGS, AND 1 BLACK AND WHITE SPOTTED PAIR. THESE HORSES WEIGH FROM 1,400 TO 1,800 LBS. EACH. THEY NEVER SAW THE STOCKYARD OR A HORSE MARKET IN THEIR LIVES AND WERE SHIPPED IN AN EXPRESS CAR. THEY ARE A CRACKING GOOD LOAD OF HORSES. SOUND AND RIGHT IN EVERY WAY AND THEY MUST SATISFY. F. H. ANDERSON, KENNEDY, N. Y. PH. 23-F-12.

### Poultry and Supplies. 49

COAL, oil and electric brooders, batteries of all kinds. Lakeside Poultry Exch. Lakewood. Ph 3-731.

GOOD feeders and fountain cuts feed cost. Buy these from Anderson Milker Co., 1372 E. 2d.

LAYENA CHECKERS will help you get more eggs no matter what feeding plan you follow. Jastn. Feed & Supply. Ph. 64-532.

POULTRY EQUIPMENT—Be sure of egg production through the use of proper poultry equipment. Falconer Milling Co., Falconer, N. Y.

## Merchandise

### Articles for Sale 51

ALWAYS buys, sells and exchange household and office furniture, machinery, electric motors belting, restaurant and store fixtures, etc. Surplus and Salvage Co., 708 East Second St., near Winsor. Ph. 3763

FOR SALE—Heavy double work harness, A-1 condition. Inq. 27 Carlton Ave., Falconer.

FOR SALE—Chestnut grape posts, on good road. Marvin Hawley, Frewsburg, N. Y.

NEW and used household goods. Living room suites $69.50 up, felt base rugs, 9x12, $4.95. Circulating heaters and kitchen gas ranges. Other household goods. At bargain prices. Lobock's, 15 Harrison.

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COPY - rd

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN February 2, 1937 ISSUE OF JAMESTOWN MORNING POST IN "HELP WANTED - MALE" COLUMN.

WANTED --Red blooded men to learn mysteries and powers of Black Legion. Learn now! Don't remain in ignorance!

See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P.M.

.Y.

Feby,-2nd,-38

Mrs Mr. Edgar Hoover, Chief Dept, Justice.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-.

I am enclosing a part of the Morning Post, a daily Paper of Jamestown, N.Y. and while looking over the Male help want column, I noticed the enclosed ad, which I marked around with ink, I have read some not so long ago about the black legions activities and I did not think it sounded so good, so I thought maybe they were trying to get new members, of course it may all be legitimate but I just thought I would mail youthis ad, in case that you did want to investigate their doings,

This Ad, was in todays issue feby, 2nd,

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7398-154

Yours Resp.

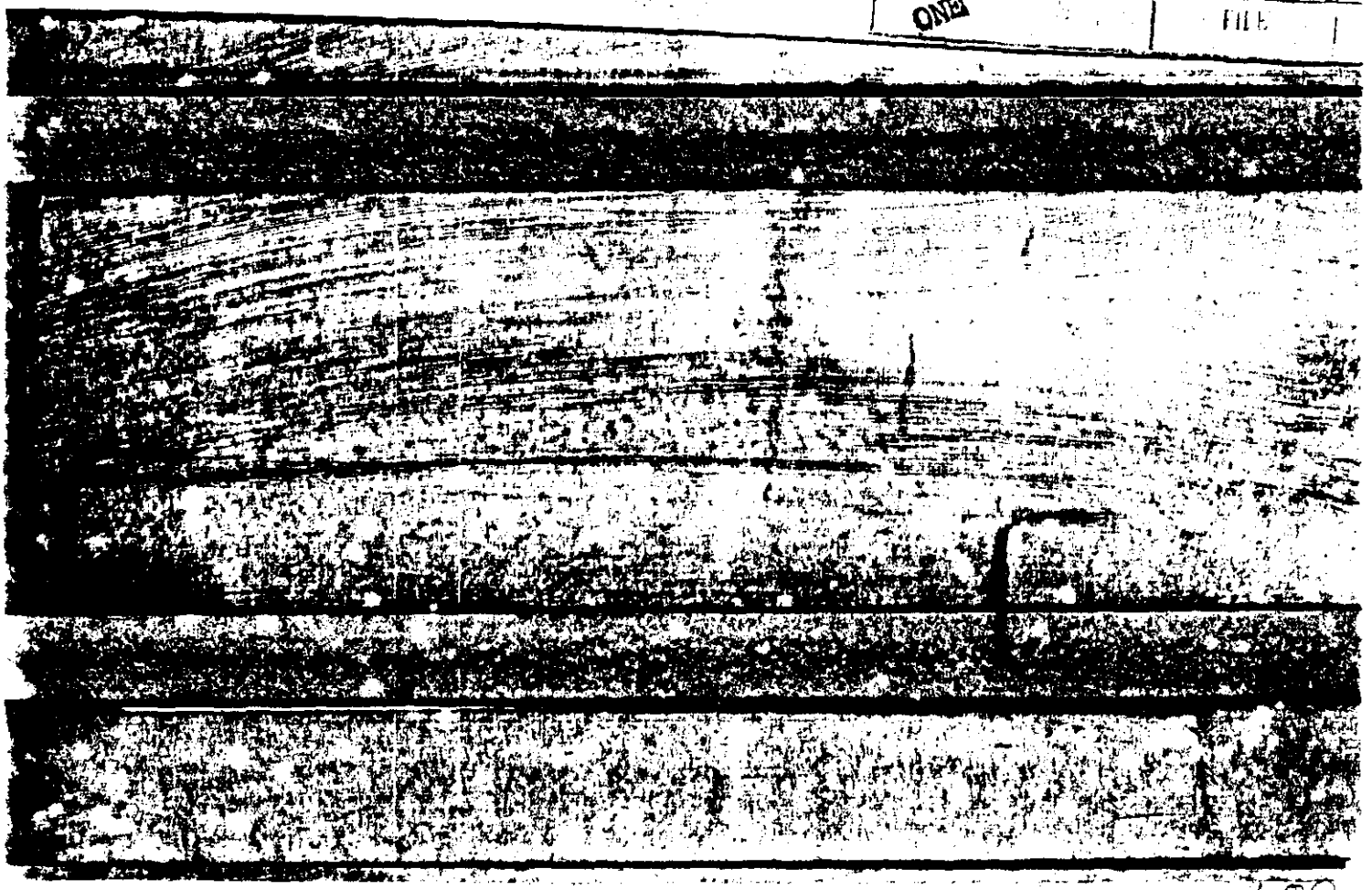
FEB 2 1939

Don L. Fisher
Former Constable

1 enl
ack
cc-Buffalo
2/10/37
HT

ONE

FILE



7 30

# Black Legion Probed by La Follette Group

DETROIT, April 21 (By International News Service).—The La-Follette Civil Liberties Committee is investigating the origin of the Black Legion, it was learned today after the Senate investigators came here to probe labor espionage tactics in automobile plants.

The committee's agents, it was determined, also were seeking to uncover instances where the civil liberties statutes had been violated by he black-robed night-riders.

Disclosure the LaFollette committee had turned its searchlight into activities of the clan came when two investigators of the committee appeared at police headquarters, and discussed the background of the terrorist cult with detectives who had worked on the case.

## 5 GUILTY OF PLOT.

Disclosure of the probe was coincident with the trial in Circuit Court of five alleged members of the Black Legion. Judge John J. Maher today found the five guilty of conspiring to break up a political campaign meeting conducted by Maurice Sugar, labor attorney, in 1935.

Sugar since has become the attorney for the United Automobile Workers Union.

At that time, however, the Black Legion had pledged its members through a "blood oath" to fight Communism, and it was charged the five Black Legionnaires convicted today had tried to break up the rally because they believed Sugar was a Communist.

## FACE 1 TO 5 YEARS.

Those convicted of the plot against Sugar were Arthur Lupp, reputed former Michigan commander o fthe Black Legion; Wilbur Robinson, Roy Hepner, Alvis Clark and Leslie Black. The latter was a former Common Pleas Court clerk.

Judge Maher said he would pass sentence next week. The convicted men face sentences of from one to five years in jail.

The LaFollette committee's sudden interest in the Black Legion also recalled that some members of the night-riders had once worked in automobile plants, and that the Legion had been active in recruiting members from among auto workers.

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL

Forwarded by New York Office

APR 21 1937

NOT RECORDED INDEXED

61-7378-154X

189

RRM:CJ
61-7398 -155

RECORDED

February 24, 1937.

Mr. Leland Simpson,
c/o Howe School,
Howe, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 19, 1937. I regret to advise you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not in a position to furnish you with any data concerning the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

CC - Indianapolis

DOCUMENTATION
FEB 24 1937

100

c/o Howe School
Howe Ind.
February 10, 1937

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Sirs:

A few months ago a certain group of men calling them selves the Black Legion were exterminated. I wonder if you would send me all available information on this subject.

respectively yours
Leland Simpson
Leland Simpson

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7378-155
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 12 1937
A. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

121

# NINE GUILTY IN BLACK LEGION MURDER PLOT

Detroit, March 2 (U.P.)—Nine members of the terroristic Black Legion were found guilty today of conspiring to murder Arthur L. Kingsley, Highland Park publisher, during 1933 and 1934.

Records Judge John V. Brennan acquitted seven other members of the hooded order.

Judge Brennan sitting as both judge and jury in the trial, found the following guilty: Arthur L. Lupp, Brigadier-General of the Black Legion; N. Ray Markland, former Highland Park Mayor; Roy Hepner, Colonel in the Black Legion; Alvis Clark, Frank Howard Rudyard Kipling Wellman, William Foster, Matthias Gun and Rupert James.

Acquitted were Leslie J. Black, former Republican leader; Frank Rice, Albert Schneider, Walter Pierce, Rowland Hasselbach, John Godwin and Wiilliam Keller.

Principal witness against the group was Dayton Dean, under life sentence, who recently was found entertaining a girl in his jail cell.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dowsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RPBm

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Forwarded by New York Office
MAR 3 - 1937

NOT RECORDED

61-7398-159

192

SFP:EG

61-7398-156

February 20, 1937.

RECORDED

Mr. J. P. MacFarland,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Unknown Subjects; Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter; Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau February 1, 1937.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #1063624

cc - Indianapolis

REGISTERED MAIL

193

13999

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SFP:EG

Laboratory Report

February 19, 1937.

Case: Unknown Subjects; Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter; Albert Phillips - Victim; Extortion.

Number: 9-2842-8

Specimens: K1. One sheet typewritten letter typed on a typewriter in the possession of A. E. Gordon. K2. Two sheets typewritten letter typed on a typewriter in the possession of C. E. Walters. K3. One sheet typewritten typed on a typewriter in the possession of the Station Agent of the Monon Railroad Station, Monon, Indiana. K4. Nine sheets written in the known handwriting of Alba K. Kelley.

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 2/2/37

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination: Examination by: Pickering

The two extortion letters to Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter and Albert Phillips were not written on any one of these three typewriters.

The sheets of paper listed as K4 differ in texture from the two extortion letters.

The original evidence listed as specimens 9-2842-8 K1, K2, K3 and K4, is being returned herewith, photographic copies having been made for the compilation of the Laboratory's files.

2 - Bureau (1 - 61-7395)
5 - Cleveland
2 - Laboratory (1 - 61-7395)
1 - Indianapolis

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7395-156

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 23 1937 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE (5)

FILE

Post Office Box 812
Chicago, Illinois
March 9, 1937

Hon. Walter Johnson
Post Office Inspector in Charge
New Post Office Building
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith the letter and envelope which you forwarded with your letter of March 4, 1937, and which was addressed to Mr. Herman Behnke, East Franklin Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Inasmuch as this letter does not contain any demand for money same does not fall under the jurisdiction of this Bureau and no investigation is being conducted thereof.

Very truly yours,

DML:LJM
cc-Bureau
enc.

D. M. LADD
Special Agent in Charge

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
U.S.
INVESTIGATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INDEXED
1937 MAR 11 PM 1:20
DIVISION ONE
RECEIVED

61-7398-15X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 11 1937
ONE

Mr. Herman Behnke,

East Franklin Street,

Portage, Wisc.

Black Legion Div, No. 7.

Feb, 28, 1937.

Mr. Herman Behnke,
Portage, Wis.

Dear Sir-

Maybe you dont know what the Black Legion is. Well you are hearing of them and from them - NOW.

For your information we wish-totinform you that there are one hundred and twenty-one members of our order in your city. They recently requested some outside members to come into the city and ob tain the consensus of public opinion regarding the manner in which you have been damaging your premises by digging a hole in the front and other ways in which you have failed to be a good citizen.

The committee quietly and secretly questioned six hundred and ninty-four tax payers, all of whom agreed that you should be driven out of town and made to stay out unless you keep your premises in far better condition th an you have here-to-fore.

They found that you are guilty of violating four city ordinances.

1. You continuely permit noxious weeds to grow on your premises.
2. You fail to keep your sidewalks free from snow after each storm.
3. You have rented your two stall brick garage for industrial purposes violating City Zoning Ordinance.
4. You have dug and maintained an unsightly hole in the front of your premises without consent of the Fire Chief.

The Black Legion hereby notifies you to fill that hole, work to start not latter than A pril 5th 1937. To sod the entire front of your property and to keep the entire lawn mowed same as other respectable people. To order your garage tenant to remove immediately all trash outside the building and keep the ground around it neat and free from junk.

S hould you fail to comply with this demand on or before April 5thand have the hole properly filled not latter than May 1st. the Black Legion will then use its own discretion as to the kind of punishment to adminis ter befitting a man of your type.

Remember dynamite is cheap.

Black Legion Committee of Thirteen.

197

HR:CDW

March 5, 1937.

61-7398 -157

RECORDED

Mr. Robert F. Jones,
Prosecuting Attorney,
Allen County,
1008 Lima Trust Building,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 26, 1937, enclosing two pictures of Virgil E. Effinger.

As stated in my letter of February 10, 1937, the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted, and I regret that the Bureau is unable to comply with your request to circularize a wanted notice for Effinger.

If you will furnish a complete description of Effinger, a wanted notice will be placed in the files of the Identification Division of this Bureau, and you will then be advised should any information be received concerning his whereabouts.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

CC - [redacted]ATIONS SECTION

MAILED
MAR 5 - 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ALLEN COUNTY
1008 LIMA TRUST BUILDING
LIMA, OHIO

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ROBERT F. JONES
ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
JOHN H. DAVISON
M. S. JENKINS

February 26, 1937

J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose two pictures of Virgil Effinger. The small print of his face is a half-tone proof of a cut. The photograph was not available. This picture was used in 1932 when Effinger ran for Sheriff. The other picture is the last picture that was taken of Effinger in the basement of his home.

Under separate cover I am sending two dyes or casts of newspaper pictures, one used in the campaign of 1934 and the other one is a side view. I do not know the date that this last picture was taken.

I hope that you can use this material to circularize a "wanted" card for Effinger.

Yours very truly,

Robert F. Jones

Prosecuting Attorney,
Allen County, Ohio

ack
cc-Cleveland
3/5/37
AR

RFJ:AN

61-7398-157

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

MAR 2 1937

199

IGHT OF THE
TO KEEP
R ARMS
UT BE

ROBERT F. JONES
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LIMA, OHIO

LIMA
FEB 23
8 M
1937
OHIO

J. Edgar Hoover, Director

Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EMH:MCL April 16, 1937.
61-7398-158

RECORDED

Miss Marjorie Hoffmann,
River Vale Road,
Westwood, New Jersey.

Dear Miss Hoffmann:

In answer to your communication dated April 12, 1937, I must advise that I do not have available for distribution the information which you request. I am pleased, however, to enclose copies of the following Bureau publications which you may find of value:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Selection and Training of Personnel
Criminal Identification and the Functions of the Identification Division
The Technical Laboratory
Uniform Crime Reports, Volume 7, No. 4
Local Law Enforcement in Relation to National Crime

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 1 1937

Enclosure #1019908

Pine Vale Rd.
Westwood N.J.
April, 12, 1937

John Edgar Hoover, director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice.

Dear Mr. Hoover.

As a student in Sociology I am greatly interested in you work of uting crime in our country. I have been greatly interested in the "Black Legion" gang.

Will you kindly send me information about them? Hoping you will acknowledge this letter, I am

Sincerly
(Miss) Marjorie Hoffmann

ack 4-16-37

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7388-158

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 14 1937
FILES. DIV. TWO

DNE

SFP:ERC
9-2242-16

61-7398

June 18, 1937

RECORDED

~~9-2242~~
61-7398-1079
Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Unknown Subjects;
Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter, Albert
Phillips - Victim; Extortion.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-2242-19

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau June 8, 1937.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #1015149

cc-Indianapolis

L-16

205

SFP:ERO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report
June 18, 1937

Number: 9-2242-16

Case: Unknown Subjects;
Doctor L. T. Wirtschafter,
Albert Phillips - Victims;
Extortion.

Specimens: (See attached sheet)

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 6-8-37

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Examination by: Pio

Result of examination:

It has been ascertained that the letters listed on the attached sheet were written with an L. C. Smith typewriter equipped with #1 Pica type, the letters being spaced ten to the inch. This style of type was manufa between January, 1914 and July, 1933.

This is not the same typewriter as that used to write the letters previously received by Doctor Wirtschafter and Albert Phillips and is identical with any of the other typewriter specimens which have been previously transmitted to the laboratory.

Specimen Q1 measures approximately 5x5 1/8, having been torn acro top and bottom. The paper bears a linen finish and has no watermar envelope, Q2, measures approximately 3 1/8x5 1/8, is of plain white p has no watermark. Specimen Q3 is 5x5 3/4" and is similar to Q1. Q4 is similar to Q2. These envelopes are similar to the ones used letters previously received.

61-239

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 2

U.S. DEPA

The letters and envelopes were treated for latent fingerpri was developed.

Photographic copies of the evidence submitted are being tr herewith.

Photographic copies of the submitted specimens will be pl anonymous letter file for comparison purposes and if an identi made your office will be notified.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATO SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHI BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITT

Specimens: 9-2242-16:

Q1. Typewritten letter beginning "Mr. Z. T. Wirtschafter this is our——".

Q2. Envelope postmarked "Indianapolis, Indiana, 4, May 31, 1937, 7:30 P. M.", addressed to Mr. Z. T. Wirtschafter.

Q3. Typewritten letter beginning "Mr. Albert Phillips this is our——".

Q4. Envelope postmarked "Indianapolis, Indiana, 4, May 31, 1937, 7:30 P.M.", addressed to Mr. Albert Phillips.

Fingerprints of the following for elimination:

| | |
|---|---|
| Marion R. Kellogg | Charles S. McCarthy |
| Edwin E. Lampert | Harold G. Heiss |
| Roy S. Powers | Frank B. Reece |
| George J. Gerlach | Louis W. Hudson |
| William H. Kelley | F. W. Lett |
| J. D. Switzer | Clarence Casey |
| George M. Hawley | |

2-Bureau (1 for 61-7398)
3-Cleveland
1-Indianapolis
2-Laboratory (1 for 61-7398)

RECORDED & INDEXED RCV:LEC ~~58-18566-1~~ 61-7391-259X

July 12, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BRIEN McMAHON

I am in receipt of a letter dated July 1, 1937, directed to the Attorney General, "Attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," by Mr. K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., with which he transmitted an undated letter received by the Post Office Department from Norman G. Clay, Soldier, Kentucky, together with a threatening communication, dated June 21, 1937, received by Clay through the United States mails.

I am transmitting to you, herewith, copies of the letter directed to the Post Office Department by Clay, together with photostatic copies of the threatening letter received by him and the envelope in which this letter was contained.

It is requested that you advise whether this is a matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, or whether the same should be handled by the Post Office Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #A-10723

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 14 1937
M
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Louisville Ky
June 7, 1932

Vagrancy Clay
Black Legion gives
you 10 days to straighten
up in. dont get drunk
on the cow money
as we will get 100 switches
and whips you lack
member of the Black
Legion. And be sure
to pull them Dam
boots off.

Black Legion
Ring Tailed Snake
P.S and we'll kill
Mickey

**Post Office Department**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR

Washington

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LGS:WD

July 1, 1937.

The Honorable

The Attorney General.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There is transmitted herewith for such attention as you may deem advisable a letter from Mr. Norman G. Clay, Soldier, Kentucky, together with one he received threatening to inflict bodily punishment.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

K. P. Aldrich

Chief Inspector.

Inclosures.

61-7398-159X

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

~~62-48565~~

Memo McMahon
Nov 7/12/37

JUN 1 A.M. 1937 KY.

1 CENT

Mr. Norris Clay
Louisville
Ky.

7-30-37

Orig. of anon. letter returned to Mr. Clay as per his request

Photostats attached

HV

Yesfer

RECEIVED JUN 25 1937 CHIEF INSPECTOR

Sadier
Ky
Chief Post Office Inspector
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir I am
sending you a letter
that was mailed to
me at Sadier would
love to have this
investigated as soon
possible as the ones are
here that done this

Norman E Clark,

P.S. I am send letter
and Envelope to you

RECORDS SEARCHED
CR. INV. SECTION
UNIDENTIFIED

JUN 1937 P.O. DEPT.

ROV:EGM
62-48560-2

INDEXED
RECORDED

61-7391-159X1

July 30, 1937.

Mr. Norman C. Clay,
Soldier,
Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Clay:

Under date of July 1, 1937 Mr. K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., referred to me your undated letter, together with a threatening communication, postmarked Soldier, Kentucky, June 22, 1937, received by you.

This threatening communication was referred to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and I am now in receipt of advice indicating that an examination of the threatening communication in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal Law or Laws. In view of this, I regret that this Bureau will be unable to conduct an investigation into this matter.

I am returning to you herewith the threatening communication, together with the envelope in which it was contained.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure A-16851 (Photostatic copy retained in Bur. file)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 30 1937
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC Louisville

APR 29 1955

BRIEN McMAHON
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington

July 20, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER.

I am in receipt of your memorandum of July 12, 1937, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to the Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department in this city by one Norman G. Clay, Soldier, Kentucky, together with photostatic copies of alleged threatening letters addressed to him by the Black Legion and dated June 21, 1937.

You request to be advised whether or not this is a matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or whether the same should be handled by the Post Office Department.

You are advised that an examination of the threatening communication in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal law or laws.

Brien McMahon
BRIEN McMAHON,
Assistant Attorney General.

61-7398-15981
~~62-48565~~ 2

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Letter to Mr. Clay 7-30-37 R.C.V.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 21 1937 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SPP:ERG
~~9-2242-20~~

61-7398

August 16, 1937

RECORDED 61-7398-160
~~9-2242~~

Special Agent in Charge,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Re: Unknown Subjects;
Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter,
Albert Phillips - Victims;
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau August 9, 1937.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-2242-221

Enclosure:

cc-Cleveland

L-16

SFP:ERC

# 18488

61-7398

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report
August 16, 1937

Case: Unknown Subjects; Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter, Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion.

Number: 9-2242-20

Specimens:
XX. Two sheets of paper containing sample typing from Underwood Standard typewriter #661828-14.

Examination requested by: Indianapolis

Date received: 8-9-37

Examination requested: Document

Examination by: Pickering

Result of examination:

It has been concluded that the Underwood typewriter #661828-14 was used to write the letters to Mr. Phillips and Doctor Wirtschafter submitted by the Cleveland field division in connection with the case, Black Legion; Night Riders; Bullet Club; Miscellaneous; Confidential, under cover letter dated November 27, 1936, Bureau file #61-7398. These specimens bear the serial #145 Q1 through Q4.

The extortion letters to Mr. Phillips and Doctor Wirtschafter submitted by the Cleveland field division in connection with the case of Unknown Subjects; Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter, Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion, transmitted under cover letter dated June 5, 1937 were not written with this typewriter.

It is noted that in all of the letters in question the writer used the small letter "i" instead of "1" for the figure "1".

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-160

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 19 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

2-Bureau (1 for file 61-7398)
2-Indianapolis
1-Cleveland
2-Laboratory (1 for file 61-7398)

L-7

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-162

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dowsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

WAC:CJ

Time - 11:45 A. M.
(8/13/37).

Date August 14, 1937.

Main subject
65-54424

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Mrs. [redacted] and [redacted] Minnesota, were referred to my office and neither could speak the English language very well.

I gathered from their conversation that Eli Babich, [redacted] had been killed on October 24, 1925, in the Guthrie Mines near Duluth, Minnesota and that they were both of the opinion he had been murdered by members of the "Black Legion" and that subsequent to 1924 one Amil Babich, who is not a relative of [redacted] had assumed the name of Eli Babich, who had been killed, and was presently a leader in the "Black Legion".

Both of these persons advised that they had never been threatened by members of the "Black Legion" in any manner but that they were afraid they would be threatened or even killed by these persons at some future date because of the fact that they had information the "Black Legion" had murdered Eli Babich.

I informed Mrs [redacted] of the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau and explained to her that the crime of murder was one within the jurisdiction of each individual state and that any information she had relative to a murder case should be given to the appropriate local authorities.

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7398-161

After learning that the Federal Government did not have jurisdiction over murder cases, Mrs [redacted] advised that the "Black Legion" was planning on murdering President Roosevelt when he visited Minnesota in 1938 and that this Legion had sent a girl, whose last name is Madunich and who is a sister of a girl whose first name is Margaret and who works for the International Institute, Duluth, Minnesota, to Washington for the purpose of ascertaining inside information concerning the Government of the United States and to ascertain if President Roosevelt

AUG 16 1937

W. A. Collier
Signature

TAMM
RWO

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

was actually planning on visiting Minnesota during 1938.

I have prepared a letter to the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department, informing that Division of the information Mrs. [redacted] submitted relative to threats on the life of the President.

NAC:CJ

RECORDED 61-7398-161

August 18, 1937.

Mr. Frank J. Wilson, Chief,
Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For your information and any attention which you deem appropriate, I wish to advise that on August 13, 1937, Mrs. [redacted] and [redacted] Duluth, Minnesota, called at this Bureau and advised that the "Black Legion" of Duluth, Minnesota, which is headed by one Amil Babich, is planning on murdering President Roosevelt upon his visit to Minnesota during the year 1938.

They also advised that a young girl whose last name is Madunich and who is a sister of a girl whose first name is Margaret and who is employed by the International Institute, Duluth, Minnesota, had been sent to Washington, D. C. by the "Black Legion" to ascertain the inside workings of the United States Government and to determine if President Roosevelt is planning on making a trip to Minnesota during the year 1938.

Neither of these persons had any definite information to offer as to where they had obtained the foregoing, although it was learned that Eli Babich, [redacted] had been killed in 1925 and that these persons believed he had been murdered by the "Black Legion".

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 19 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
SECRET SERVICE DIVISION

August 20, 1937.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

We are in receipt of and thank you for your letter of August 18, transmitting for appropriate attention information given your Bureau, August 13, by Mrs [redacted] and [redacted] of [redacted] Duluth, Minnesota, to the effect that the "Black Legion" of Duluth, headed by one Amil Babich, is planning to murder the President upon his visit to Minnesota during the year 1938, and that they have sent a young girl named Madunich to this city to obtain information in furtherance of their scheme.

Very truly yours,

Acting Chief, Secret Service

wsb/rss

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-162

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 21 1937
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1500 Biscayne Building,
Miami, Florida,
August 28, 1957.

. Herbert S. Phillips,
ited States Attorney,
mpa, Florida.

ear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, nclosing a Black Legion warning which was turned over o you by Mrs. Mary Hemo, 105 East Constant Street, ampa, Florida, which she found in her mail box at her residence.

The matter does not appear to be one for investi- gation by this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers
Special Agent in Charge.

RLS:EEJ

00 Bureau

INDEXED

61-7398-162X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 28 1957
FILE NUMBER

EAC:TD October 6, 1937

RECORDED 61-7398-163

Mr. [redacted]

[redacted]

Duluth, Minnesota.

52771

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I have received your undated letter transmitting a letter dated September 20, 1937, together with photographs, which you asked me to forward to Special Agent E. A. Collier of this Bureau.

As this letter has been referred to me for acknowledgment, I wish to inform that as you were previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted by Congressional enactment to the investigation of cases in which there is an indication of a violation of specified Federal laws and as the complaint of your mother is not a matter within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau no action can be taken concerning the same.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAC St. Paul
OCT 6 - 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted]

Director

Blanco Oregon

1 ENCL H

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-163

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 7 1937

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO ONE FILE

[redacted]
Duluth Minn
Sept. 20 1937

Dear Sir;

I am [redacted] who was in your office with [redacted] on Aug. 13. We were very glad that you remembered us and sent that agent to our house. As you told us we went to our District Attorney but I think he cannot help us. In the 16 years [redacted] was in this country she never (ment) met a person whom she could talk to and have them understand her cause did? [redacted]

ENCL. H

RECORDED & INDEXED

Det 7-28-16

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

[redacted] heard Emil Bubich cousin Joe Babich (al) say he wanted

[redacted]

to get [redacted]
so he can receive her compensation.
They wanted [redacted]
[redacted] they got it. Emil Babich
is still living with his wife Dorothy,
she does anything she pleases - drinks
smokes etc., she knows his crooked
and they're always fighting. [redacted]

deputy sheriffs were looking all
over for Emil Babich. Police were right
in our town knew where he was and
just kept still [redacted] asked why
sheriffs were looking for Emil although
[redacted] didn't know him. [redacted]
didn't know anything until Steve
Basich told him everything in 1924 in
the woods. [redacted]

felt bad because if he had all that on his shoulders he'd go anyplace for help. Sheriffs and Police in Minnesota get all men they're after when the men are dead but the dead men are not the ones they're just being blamed for things the Black legion members did — dead men don't see or talk. When my father was killed I didn't know ~~date~~ wether he was dead or just sleeping in the coffin, now I know what happened. My mother believes in God but not in priests because priests are members of the Black Legion and they make false death certificates before a man dies. Every morning and night my mother prays that there be a time when I can open a door to clean my fathers name. The negroe slave ring caught recently in Duluth was connected with Emil legion. My mother heard Emil's cousin say it was and that it would be caught about this time, because

the negroes would do as the legion wanted. The negroes wanted to be dressed up and have nice cars but the legion wants to tip the country over. Negroes didn't know what was to happen ahead for 15 years as did Emils legion.

[redacted]

Potkalinje, Bosnia Krupa
Jugoslavia

His fathers name Ilija Babich and mothers Mara Babich maiden name Mara Milanovich. [redacted] went and put Emils father & mother name instead of [redacted] The reason they want to kill my step-father is because they killed his brother Sam to hide Krivo Stanic

born in Sanski Most
Bosnia, Yugoslavia

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] father - Blaze Stojanovich and mother Mitra Stojanovich maiden name Mitra Sijak.
Trivo Stanic is hiding in Duluth and is waiting [redacted] name. [redacted] killed in 1919 and in 1922 Trivo Stanic with several members drew money belonging to Sam from a bank. [redacted] says that Emil's cousin Joe was in one of the offices in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Bldg. and saw Emil's picture and said - Yes that's the one and his killed know but Emilo is alive and Joe meant [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Emil is
carrying another mans name too he is
Mihajla Babic
Prkosl, Bosnia, Petrovar,
Jugoslavia
They killed Mihajla in
1926 when Yugoslavia wouldn't accept
[redacted] Joe Babich made the
order that Mihajla should be killed at
Carson Lake Minnesota in 1926. Joe
Babich fooled Yugoslavia one way
and the United States the other way.
When Joe Babich was at one of your
offices he wrote his name different he
used the name Ilije Surla but
that man is in Yugoslavia and
doesn't know a thing about it. When
Joe was at one of the offices he was
crying - he was able to cry because

for just thought of the things he did. And he had to go to one of the offices because the legion sent him. When he came back to Minneota he said he could ~~to~~ buy an American for a stick of gum. Joe received all the money from the lodges insurance which the men the legion killed had. Joe went from town to town in Jugoslavia and found out the names of the mothers and fathers the dead men had and the United States will send the ~~insurance money~~ money from the banks the men had thru the consul to which Joe sent the names of mothers and fathers of the men the legion killed although Joe says they died so he can get the money now I don't think he got it yet. When the United States sends the money watch for [redacted] and you may catch him. [redacted] says that men that you've looked for and after heard that they're dead are alive and they've got citizenship papers

registered at the United States Postoffice. This is including only Serbian and Croations that is just the ones my mother knew. I'm not sure if it goes to the Postoffice but I think it goes there. [redacted] heard Joe Babich laughing and saying to the other men that there live in the ~~Postoffice~~ place they've got their citizen papers and send to the Federal Bureau of investigation [redacted] says that nothing would make this country more safe than by having everyone's finger prints taken. Take a look if Emil Dubich has his citizenship papers under [redacted] name and [redacted] says to take the signature Joe Dubich put down when he said that Emil was dead and compare the writing with his in Jugoslavia. Joe went under another name so a just find the one who talked about Emil. I'm sending some of [redacted] pictures and a picture of a bad priest

Sincerely [redacted]

When you send us the answer and your correct address we'll send some larger pictures.

[redacted] born [redacted] to [redacted] ra [redacted]
[redacted]edari, Dragalic Slavonia, Yugoslavia.

[redacted]

[redacted] was the only son in the family. He has two sisters both married. Saka Drljaca and

[redacted]

Yoka Stulic. Both living in same place
[redacted] was born. There a Steve Baliz
[redacted] living in the same town in which
[redacted] was born, his no relative
and he's a member of the legion. He
went when Joe fixed things up.

RECORDED

RFG:PED
61-7398-164

March 21, 1938.

Mr. Robert F. Anderson,
810 College Street,
Beloit, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

In Mr. Hoover's absence from the city I want to acknowledge your letter of March 16, 1938, in which you request information on the "Black Legion" for use in the preparation of your work in sociology.

It is indeed regretted that this Bureau does not have available any data on this topic; however, it is suggested that the Superintendent of the Detroit Police Department might be able to furnish you with the information you desire.

I am enclosing several booklets of this Bureau dealing with the activities of our Special Agents which I thought might be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Fenwerth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hotel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Naughton
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

FBI
UCR, Vol. 8, No. 4
Part of Youth in Law Enforce.
Public Duty in Law Enforce.

MAR 21 1938
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BELOIT COLLEGE

March 16, 1938

Dear Mr. Hoover;

I am a major in Sociology at Beloit College and have elected to write a life history of some criminal case from the sociological point of view. The subject of which I would like some information is the "BLACK LEGION". I live in Detroit and know Judge Scallon so probably will be able to get a few interesting sidelights on the case, but am not able to get first hand information on this subject. Any and all information you can give will be very much appreciated. Thanking you for anything you can do for me on this subject, I am,

Sincerely yours

Robert F. Anderson

810 College St.

Beloit, Wisconsin

Fed Force
for PD Dept

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-164

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 18 1938

A. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

a.e. 3/21/38

241

Mr J. Edgar Hoover,
I want you to please
write to me if you
will answer this
question.
Is there a law against
People being Members of
What they call the
"Black Legion"
Legion
Do you men work on such

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7378-165

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 13 1938 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

ONE

order ack. acknowledge 6/15/38 [illegible]

Cases!

I am Building a new Mission Church here in Coal Camps am a Missionary.

Tragedy has Came to my oldest Brother and I do desire you assist.

Thanking you.

Miss Delma X Stoudenhimer

Dillonvale Ohio.

June 11th 1938 P.O Box 734

LLM:CJ

RECORDED

61-7308-165

June 15, 1938

Miss Delma Stoudenhimer
Post Office Box 734
Dillonvale, Ohio

52770

Dear Miss Stoudenhimer:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated June 11, 1938.

I regret to advise you that it is not within the province of this Bureau to furnish advice on legal matters, in consequence of which it will be impossible for me to advise you concerning the inquiry contained in your letter.

This will inform you, however, that this Bureau is undertaking no investigation with reference to the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Cincinnati

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 16 1938
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEW:CJ
61-7388 -166

RECORDED

August 12, 1938

Mr. Harold Seltzer
1 Castle Avenue
Spring Valley, New York

52768

Dear Mr. Seltzer:

With reference to your letter of August 9, 1938, I regret to advise you that all matters contained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are of a confidential nature, for which reason it will be impossible for me to furnish advice with regard to the question contained in your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - New York City

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Carroll
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tamm

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 12 1938
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I C ttle Ave

Spring Valley, N.Y.

August 9, 1938

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Would you please inform me if there is such an organization as , THE BLACK LEGION , and if so, is it in United States.

Yours truly

HA

RECORDED & INDEXED

2 4

61-7318-167

August 26, 1938

Mr. Joseph Todd
940 Hopkins Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Todd:

From the information contained in your letter of August 18, 1938, and the enclosure attached thereto, I am unable to observe that there is any violation of a Federal Statute coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

For this reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Cincinnati

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Downey
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Ellsworth
Mr. Gurin
Mr. Hardo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 26 1938
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Ohio
-1938

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a clipping from a local newspaper concerning a band of terrorists known as the "Night Riders of Ohio."

RECORDED & INDEXED

We believe that the actions displayed by this group are contrary to the fundamental principle of the Constitution of the United States.

We, as law-abiding citizens of the United States, feel that we are entitled to the protection of the Federal Government against anarchism and terrorism; and we sincerely hope that you will give this organization a thorough investigation.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Todd
940 Hopkins St
Cincinnati, Ohio

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

# Cross Is Burned at Sharonville

## Negroes Warned to Stay Out of Sharon Woods.

A sign reading: "Negroes, beware! Stay in your place. Keep out of Sharon Woods. Danger ahead," and signed by the "Night Riders of Ohio, 800 strong," was found at the base of an 18-foot fiery cross by Deputy Sheriff Edwin Nolting on Wyscarver Road, south of Sharonville, Friday night.

Replicas of rifles were found around the bottom of the cross. Sharonville firemen extinguished the blaze after it had been viewed by occupants of several hundred automobiles.

The office of Sheriff George A. Lutz is investigating the burning of the cross.

A. M. Husted, head of the park police, said that every effort would be made to prevent any outbreak of violence within the park area.

Husted said that Negro card sharps recently had fleeced picnickers, using a marked deck. They were arrested.

The burning of the cross attracted the attention of hundreds of persons in Sharonville, and those ~~riding~~ in automobiles.

RECORDED

61-7338 -/ 6 8

September 28, 1938

Mr. William B. Kinsella
c/o Mr. William Taylor
Hillsdale, Michigan

Dear Mr. Kinsella:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated September 23, 1938, together with the enclosures attached thereto, I must advise you that the matters to which you refer do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. For this reason it will be impossible for the Bureau to undertake any investigation in this matter.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

CC - Detroit

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crosby
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hamsworth
Mr. Carson
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Lester
McIntire
Gale

9/26/38

Mr J. Edgar Hoover, Sir
I am a victim of the
Black Leagent,
a conspiracy against me
by a gang of labor leade
of the Street Car Union of
Chicago
William Fabor & Lorance Blan
turned a gan of outlaw
Police and gansters on me
they tried to kill me on my car
out in Cragin on Grand Av.
they turned all the people out the
on me they told them i broke up
homes to cover up there atemp
murder i cought two of them
I told the Judge it was
only a drunken fight
i was afraid
to Prosecute them

RECORDED & INDEXED

I ENCL W

61-7241-168

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 26 1938 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

they turned Dutch Anderson
Jerry Chapman
Young Griffo the Price
fighter Black Jack
Mike the killer he run
a saloon near western av
and Division st.
Captin Healy of Lake st
station took me out of
my house and put me
in the Intention Hospital
i was in there two days
the first night two men
com on duty at twelve
oclock they choked a man
with a wet towl the
next night they put
me in an nother room
the same two men
where going to kill me
i set up in bed all
night the night nurse
come in about four.

oclock i herd her say is
he ready they told her to
shut up. and keep quite
that i was awake and
siting up.
The next day my wife
and brother come and
got me out the head
man of the place wasent
going to let me out.
my wife started crying
the man said wat are
you crying for you put
him in here didint you
My wife told him no
i didint the man said
wat is this get him out
of here and let me out
they turned all my people
against me and told them
i was crazy they put
gansters after my wife
and got her away from me

and broke my home up.
i was living at North Av
near the North Av Car Barns
where i worked.
How i got in this afful thin
I was taking som cartoons
down to Mr Mooney the editor
of the Chicago Examiner
a moterman by the name
of Dinnie Long asked me
if he could go with me i
told him yes when we got
down there he wantted to
rite a policemen up in
the paper. mr Moonie told
him to get out i said
you might get me in this
the next night they tried
to kill me on my car
out in Eragen
i left Chicago and went to
Payne Ohio to People by the
name of Haley that i

lived with till i was
sixteen years old on a farm
they followed me out there
and turned every one
against me and told them
i was crazy i left there
and went to wood Burn
Indiana i worked for
Amous Schlauther on a farm
they turned every one against
me there and told them
i was crazy i left there
and went to Fort Wayne
I got a Job in the
General Electric in the carpenter
Shop. i worked there four
years i got a Job cartooning
on a Labor paper called
the worker Mr Percie Bell
the Editor they turned the
Machine Gun Kelley gang
on me i cleared out i
got a Job on a farm.

near Angola Indiana
with Mr. Zimerman i
worked all summer for him
Then i went to Jackson mich
I got a room with to old
People by the name of
Burgess neather one was
able to work they where living
on the city
I started to Sign Paint
i took them off the
city and was taking care
of them
One day Van Ducen a
Detective on the Jackson
Police force a Chicag
Policeman and a nother
man cam out to the
house and told Mr and
Mrs. Burgess they where
going to put me in
the crazy house
When I got home from

worke they told me
Mr Burgess told them
i was taking care of
them and not to take me
away that i wasent crazy
They told them to tell me
to keep quite and quit
Sign painting and they
would let me live in
Jackson.
Mr Burgess told me to go
ahead and sign paint
that they would stand
by me they put a
ganster up to buy the hour
to get us out of the
nabor hood Mr Burgess
lived there 35 years i
dident want them to sell
it i seen wat they where
dueing to get them in a
nabor hood that no one
new them so they could

turned them on them wich
they did
Mr Burgess rented a house
from a realestate Man by
the name of Best
a Block and a half from
the Druger store on Lansing
Ave
They got a women that run
a rooming house on
Machinac St a cross from
Hart and Woodfield Lumber Co
i think her name is spider
she come out to the house
and told us that Madam
Kathren a forten teller turned
Mr Burgess in she got 25 or
twenty five dollers for turn
him in i was during some
painting for her at the time
right after she called the
wagon Chief Phelps come
in her place and talked to

her he got out of a baker
wagon. I never they where
something going on whin
i seen him whin i got
home Mrs Burgess told me
that women come out and
told her that Mr Burgess
wanted to see us before
he died that night he died
he was well and nothing
the mater with him
Too days after he died Doctor
Vaush told a frind lomin
to tell me if i ridient
get out of Jackson he
would kill me from the
discription my frind gave me
i new him when i seen
him he come in there and
sived me up.
then they got Mrs Burgess
over in a house on
Lancing ave an was

putting men after her nor they had her arrest
A street car conductor by the name of Mc nickels and his wife lived there Machine gun Kelley and his gang where all in there when i got home from work She was siting by the stove all doped up. She said they told her to tell me it wont be long now i was working for the Coca Cola Co the next day i went in the office i guess i was crying Mr Well the Manager asked me wat was the mater I told him there was a gan of criminals out in a house on Lancing av and they where abusing Mrs Burgess

he said say that Mrs Burges
is using dope i kin tell
a dope fiene the minute
i see one then i told
him about that gang
out in that house
he said i'll fix that
he rote a letter to United
states attorney General in
Detroit Mich three days
after they come down.
The Jackson Police tiped
Machine gun Kelley and his
gun off they all cleared
out McNickels and his
wife and left there furnit
then they come over to the
house and turn her on the
floor and abused her she
told me when i got home
from work the Jackson
Police and Sheriff miss
in formed the government
snew

they turned her brother
against me and got him
to kick me out then
they broke her home up.
I got a room two doors
from the Coca Cola Co the
second night i was there
Lutenent Brownie and
Machine gun Kelley gan tried
to take me out of the hous.
I was in bed my room was
at the top of the stairs
my door was open i herd
him say to Mrs Simons
the lady i roomed with
i'ne going up and get
that feller she told him
i was all right and
woudent let him take me
out there was a big car
around in the alley with
gansters in i got another
room on taylor st

With people by the name
of Harvie They come
there and turned them on
me then i left there and
got a room at Mr Moore
across from the Coca Cola
Mrs Burgess come to me
crying and said she had
no home and wanted me
to let her come and take
care of here i told her
to keep away from me that
the union gansters would
dope her and get her to
call the Police on me
like they did i told her
the only way i could take
care of her was to marry
her. she said all right
then the union gansters
started to worked on
her i got a place on
railroad st they chased me

out of there i got a
Room on Black stone St
the second night i was
there the scout car Police
and Machine gun Kelley
gan tried to take me
out of there this is the
Place where i seen his
wife the next day i got
another room i went back
to get my close Kelleys wife
followed me out to the
side walk and that tall
light hair killer that
got after me in Fort Wayne
and i went back to
my wife the next day i
got another place north
of town thru the wellfare
I dont no the name of the
street or the mans name
i was just there a week
they put him up to dope her

I couldent get no signs to paint so i ran out of money they had me robbin i had no money to get another place so i cleared out and left my wife i dont now what become of here she was in the hands of the gangesters god bless her i got a job on a farm near Osseo at Mr Haskins Machine gun Kelley followed me out there they came around the house 2 nights sunday Mr Haskins and his wife went to church. they where gone about 10 minutes when Machine gun Inspector Kelley drove in he had his little girl in is arms for protection i told him to get out he said he was coming back to get me

well J. Edgar Hoover got them

Doctor Vaughn
Madam Katherene forten teller
Mrs Snider
Labor leaders at the head of the street car union of Jackson and Cheif Phelps all aresled for the murder of Mr William Burgess

I want sherriff Lovett and all the sherriffs under him ever Police under Phelps Capt William Hansen of the Michigan state Police and all the men under him all aresled for conspiracy and working with
Machine gun Inspector Kelley of Chicago Police force to murder me and every Labor leader in Jackson

and for blocking my
mail to the Attorney General
in Detroit Michigan
I can prove every thing
I have told you
I ask you to give me a
chance and break up
this terible thing the
Black Leaden and
night Raiders.

William B. Kinsella
Hillsdale Michigan

I am working for
William Taylor on a farm
3 miles nort west of
Hillsdale Michigan

8 & d

Edgar Hoover

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington D. C.

D

JDE:DG

January 21, 1939

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge
Cleveland, Ohio

Re: Black Legion

Dear Sir:

RECORD OF Title 61-7398-105

On June 6, 1935 there was received in the Laboratory one .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol upon which the serial 251440 was successfully restored as reported in Laboratory Report 34607. At that time this weapon was placed in the Laboratory's collection of firearms, but as it is no longer desired it is requested that the Laboratory be advised as to whether there is any reason why this gun may not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-169

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 23 1939

MAILED
JAN 21 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

January 25, 193[illegible]

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 21, 1939 (Bureau file 61-7398), requesting information as to whether there is any reason for not disposing of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, serial number 251440.

A review of the Cleveland office file in the above entitled case reflects that on May 21, 1935 the aforementioned automatic pistol was delivered by [redacted] Ohio, to Special Agent C. E. Smith, at which time the serial number had been obliterated. The file further reflects that the War Department had been circularized and no record of this gun having been stolen was located.

On July 8, 1936 the Cleveland office received a communication, and again on July 27, 1936, from one [redacted] of Lima, Ohio, which communications were written on behalf of [redacted] endeavoring to have this gun returned to him, and on July 31, 1936 Mr [redacted] was advised that unless he had a bill of sale showing that he had legitimately purchased this gun, it would not be returned to him. By letter dated August 18, 1936 Mr [redacted] advised that he had purchased this gun from a former officer in the Black Legion and did not get a bill of sale or even a receipt.

From the foregoing this office can see no reason why this pistol should not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

Al Rosen
AL ROSEN
Special Agent in Charge

WAC/rh
62-3

7[illegible]-170

KRM:HEC

61-7558-171

May 9, 1939

Mr. [redacted]
414 East Columbus Drive
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Vert:

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction over the matters referred to in your letter of April 29, 1939.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Miami

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Bosworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Foster
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 9 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[illegible] 21, 1934

United States [illegible]

Have received [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] have notified local authorities, but no results given. Would like to know what step to take?

Letters recieved were written with typewriter, pictures were drawn with crayons, one letter was a Whitesfield North Carolina concern.

RECORDED & INDEXED (6) 7378-171 CLERK

Black Legion has given to the 30th of May to leave town. Ten people have recieved letters. All involved are United States citizens, voters, and prominent American. Answer at once by letter, telegram, or wire.

[redacted]

Tampa File

NOV 1 9 26 AM 1990

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
Cleveland, Ohio
February 9, 1940

CES:VLD
62-3

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS,
BULLET CLUB -- MISCELLANEOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

On February 9, 1940, Mr. ROBERT LARKIN, reporter for the Cleveland Press newspaper, personally called at this office and furnished acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs with a copy of a letter dated February 5, 1940, which letter was apparently sent by W. H. HAGEN, editor of the Lima News of Lima, Ohio, to DICK MAHER of the Cleveland Press. The letter reads as follows:

> "Every once in a while a member of the profession calls on another for a little help. Such is the case.
>
> We are being sued by Mr. Bert Effinger, alleged Black Legion Commander, for a $250,000 note on a charge of criminal libel because of stories we printed.
>
> Some years ago the F.B.I. chief in Cleveland investigated the Black Legion and at that time was given a Legion robe and a gun by one of the ex-members of the Legion.
>
> I want to get in touch with the F.B.I. man and thought your federal beat man could help me out, or else check the office and see what file they have on Effinger and the Legion. Strange as it may seem I believe the Fed's name was Smith and he was in charge of the Cleveland office about 1934 to 1936.

172
12 1940

Anything you can do along this line will be appreciated as we want to build up a good defense against Effinger and give him the licking of his life."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L.Grubbs advised Mr. LARKIN that it would be impossible to give him any information concerning this or any other matter, as authority for release of such information must of necessity come from the Bureau in Washington.

The attention of the Bureau is directed to the third and fourth paragraphs of the above-quoted letter, wherein editor HAGEN states he believes the "Fed's" name who investigated the Black Legion was Smith, and that the investigating agent obtained a gun and Legion robe from an ex-member.

In connection with the above, attention is directed to the report of Special Agent Clyde E. Smith dated May 24, 1935, in the above case which reflects that Agent Smith is apparently the individual referred to by Editor HAGEN, it also being noted on page six of reference report that one [redacted] an ex-Black Legion member, advised that Department of Justice agent by the name of SMITH was to be initiated into the order.

With reference to the gun and robe, it will be noted that a .45 caliber automatic pistol, the number of which was subsequently ascertained to be 251,440 by the technical laboratory as well as the fact that it was Government property, was obtained. However, the robe was apparently obtained by J. F. CORDREY, post office inspector at Lima, Ohio, and forwarded to his inspector-in-charge at Cincinnati, as reflected by an inclosure transmitted to the Cleveland office under date of April 22, 1935, by the Bureau.

For the further information of the Bureau, [redacted] an ex-member of the Legion who furnished information to this office as reflected by the reference report of Agent

Director February 9, 1940

Smith, and one O. L. FOYD, whose name appears on page twelve of reference report and is listed as a member of the Legion, were at the time of instant investigation employed by the Lima News.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman

W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

CEK:VLD

May 29, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KERMIT WESTBAY
NPA Graduate
Police Department
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

While in Lima, Ohio, recently Special Agent C. E. Kleinkauf of this office had occasion to contact Chief of Police J. C. GOODWIN in connection with a case involving VIRGIL H. EFFINGER who was formerly connected with the Black Legion. Agent Kleinkauf upon making inquiry of Chief GOODWIN as to any knowledge he might have of EFFINGER, was asked by GOODWIN, "Why don't you ask WESTBAY about the Black Legion?" Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN what he meant by that remark, whereupon he advised that it had been reported to him by several individuals that WESTBAY was a former lieutenant in the Black Legion and had been quite active in this organization at the time it was flourishing in Lima, Ohio. Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN if he had any information which would substantiate this report, and he advised that he did not, but that the information had come to him from quite a reliable source.

In connection with the above information it should be kept in mind that at the time Chief GOODWIN furnished this information he and WESTBAY were rival candidates for the position of chief of police, the appointment later falling to Chief GOODWIN. However, at the time he furnished this information Chief GOODWIN did not indicate that he was furnishing it because of any dislike or rivalry between him and WESTBAY, that it was quite a well-known fact around Lima and he thought it should be called to the attention of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7-17-173
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 20, 1940

Mr. [redacted]
Tiffin, Ohio

Dear Mr. Young:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 8, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated. You may be assured your letter is being made a matter of official record for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

A.M. Thurston

61-7-98 (174)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 21
8:30 AM
1940

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

NOT IN DIRECTORY

Tiffin, Ohio
July 8, 40.

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7398-17
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 10 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To the Bureau of Federal Investigation

I have a "tip" for you, in case ~~any of you~~ are sleuthing about this part of Ohio. ~~Mr. Reed~~, a small brunette man of this city, un recently employed in the Home Restaurant, (w he still takes meals ~~and~~ goes) is at present an active spy for the Black Legion. (very strong in Findlay, Carey, Bucyrus, Tiffin, etc.) He wa aiding in the plot against O. A. Searfoss of Findl Ohio. A direct tip assures us of this, plus our own suspicions. He said he knows where stolen goods may be bought cheaply in Toledo. He was said to have been implicated in white slavery three months ago. He is said by several to have peddled dope for years, and was making mysterious tri out of town, often, while working here. He made those trips as late as April. He is a tea cup reader (fortune teller), which we believe is only a "racket" to cover him being in "queer" places, if fou He rooms at 47 N. Monroe St, Tiffin, at pres He formerly roomed at a questionable place and admitted of lewd intoxicated women coming there. He is quite foxy and beguiling.

Rec'd 7-10-40 Rec'd 7-10-40 CMT

231

He has boasted of his [illegible] with big "[illegible]" [illegible] how he spurned this offers for his conspiracy. He has boasted of the stolen goods sold cheaply, before Mr. Searfoss and others. If he were watched a bit it might lead to some discoveries. He is also quite a drinker and gambler.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

Tiffin, Ohio

(P.S. No reply necessary)

TIFFIN, OHIO
JUL 6
2 30 PM
7940

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Wash. D.C.

[illegible] 1942.

[illegible] America, are now in progress, and is [illegible] Long, to appear [illegible] President of the [illegible]

[illegible] is, David Kennedy, [illegible] apparent names that [illegible] name will not be seen on this.

There will be another meeting tomorrow night of this group, and the expected crowd will be about 50 men from all over the State. They are be coming very active now in the Shops, on organizing, and are doing quite well at it, but are being careful to keep their membership as quiet as possible, until they really get under way.

**********

On the so termed new Black Legion matter, I find that, Spolanski has been trying to talk to several men in regards to it, and they have apparently given him some information that lead him to beleive they were very active again, but I find that most of these were old members, and as stated before, they are radicals in this direction. The men supposed to be connected with the rehashed outfit, are as follows:

Tom Vose, old stand by and pal of Nat Ganley, picked up during last clean up.
Clarence Prince, former member.
Art Lutt, " "
Simon Patton, " " Known as Red, and a bad actor.
Ruddy Wellman, " " a number I 'Screwball'.
? Burley " " Packard Employee.

Wellman was explained to me in just the language used above, and is not credited with too much brains.

Do not hear much of their activities anywhere, but Spolanski says they are quite active again, and meet frequently.

**********

From Windsor Ont., learn that Tim Buck, is doing a great deal of successful organizing, under the name of the Workers Union, both Hungarian and Ukaranian. He is avoiding the name of 'Communist', as much as possible for the present time, but the above two units meet every Thursday night, on Drouillard Rd. in East Windsor, and they are apparently having some pretty good sized meetings, as well as a lot of Social functions that are very well attended, and have quite a number from Detroit Present also.

They are very careful with their speeches in public, but are all for Tim Buck, and his principles. Most of the meetings are in the Ukaranian Hall.

**********

Immerman, mentioned before, as the man in charge of Plant Protection for the Army Air Corp., started out by calling in some men from Cadillac who were Red sympathizers, and started out as if he meant to do something about it, but all of a sudden he stopped, and has permitted a committeeman to be elected, a big colored man by the name of Barnes, who is one of the most rabid Reds in the Plant.

Machetti, is also moving forward in the Committee direction, and it looks like the Reds are going to hold sway out there again in spite of the election recently that defeated their power at that time.

Immerman had plenty of proof of the fact, Dwight Warren, was causing plenty of trouble out there, and also stirring up the Negroes to trouble, he did nothing about it. BA-I.

Five

[redacted]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

56018

Dear Mr Hoover:

I know your a terribly busy man rig now but please take time to give this second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I wo adore an autographed photo of you, I adm you almost as much as Mr. President.

Second, Rumors here that have gone on for months say that there is a club of "nazi sympthizers", called the Black Legi located at Ferndale California, This little town is aprox. 10 miles south west of Eure California, of course its only rumors but its been going on so long there must be some truth in it. Couldent the F.B.I at San Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope that this does help catch these traitors (Legio are all Italians.)

Please dont forget the picture if you not busy.

Very Sincerely yours

[redacted]

[redacted]

61-7598-174
RECORDED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
AUG 11 1942

August 25, 1942

Mrs. [redacted]
c/o [redacted]
Post Office
Fortuna, California

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter postmarked August 4, 1942, has been received in the absence of Mr. Hoover. Its contents will be called to the Director's attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Candy
Secretary

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
AUG 25 1942 P.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mrs. [redacted]

Fortuna, California

FORTUNA
AUG 4
7 AM
1942
CALIF.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington
D.C.

(COPY)

Fortuna, California
c/o [redacted]
Box [redacted]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Hoover:

I know your a terribly busy man right now but please take time to give this a second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I would adore an autographed photo of you. I admire you almost as much as Mr. President.

Second, Rumors here that have gone on for months say that there is a club affair of "nazi sympthizers" called the Black Legion located at Ferndale California. This little town is approx. 10 miles south west of Eureka California. Of course its only rumors, but its been going on so long there must be some truth in it. Couldent the FBI at San Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope that this does help catch thoes "wops" (yes, they are all Itilains).

Please dont forget the picture if your not too busy.

Very Sincerely yours,

/s MRS. [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED

September 15, 1942

JCN:klb

~~94-4-5929-1~~

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: BLACK LEGION;
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

Dear Sir:

For your information and possible assistance in conducting an investigation of the above captioned organization there are transmitted two copies of a letter received by the Bureau from Mrs [redacted] Box [redacted] Fortuna, California.

It is desired that a preliminary investigation be conducted to ascertain if the above captioned organization actually exists and if it is engaged in activities detrimental to the internal security of the United States.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 10
SEP 15 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

August 25, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: Mrs. [redacted]
c/o [redacted]
Post Office
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received at the Bureau from Mrs. [redacted] and it is desired that you have an Agent interview her as soon as possible to obtain full information concerning the Black Legion at Ferndale, California. Incidental to this inquiry your office should ascertain the identity, background and reputation of the above named individual. This matter should be given your prompt attention and your reply should be furnished the Bureau by air mail special delivery letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
SEP 8 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 1
AUG 25 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
September 14, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: MRS. [redacted]
c/o MR [redacted]
Post Offi[redacted]
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letters from the Director dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 respecting investigation in the above entitled matter. 61-7398-114X2

It is to be noted that this matter is being given immediate attention by this office and that an Air Mail, Special Delivery letter will be forwarded by September 24, 1942.

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

OTM:wap
94-131
AMSD

6 SEP 30 1942

F B I
20 SEP 22 1942

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
San Francisco, California
October 2, 1942

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: MRS. [redacted]
c/o Mr. [redacted]
Post Office [redacted]
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letters dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 requesting that the above individual be interviewed for full information concerning the Black Legion at Ferndale, California. It was further requested that the identity, background and reputation of the above named individual be ascertained.

On September 17, 1942, MRS. [redacted] Fortuna, California advised that all her information in the matter had been received through her mother, MRS. [redacted] of the same address.

MRS [redacted] recalled that shortly after the war broke out in December, one of her boarders, a RALPH LA COSTA, had told her that earlier in the fall of 1941 he had been invited to join a "secret organization" in Ferndale; that the organization consisted mostly of Portuguese and that it had "something to do with the war." She further recalled that LA COSTA had been asked why he had not "turned the matter in", and had replied that if the organization was as dangerous as he thought it was, he would be afraid to say anything about them. The name Black Legion had not been used by him and MRS. [redacted] could not recall how it had come into the picture.

MRS [redacted] said that she had not seen LA COSTA since May, but believed him to be in the Merchant Marine. She could give no information as to what individuals were involved in the solicitations for membership, nor did she know any of LA COSTA'S associates in the Ferndale area. A picture of LA COSTA together with names of some of his Fortuna associates were given to interviewing agents.

A discreet investigation will be instituted respecting activities of Portuguese in the Ferndale area, although it is to be noted that a previous inquiry as to possible activity among the Portuguese in that area was made of the City Marshal at Ferndale with negative results.

COPY IN FILE

# WHO BACKS THE BLACK LEGION?

☆ WHO ARE THE BLACK LEGIONAIRES?

☆ WHAT IS THEIR OBJECT?

*How can we stamp them out?*

These and many other points will be discussed by good speakers!

on FRIDAY 7.30pm JULY 31st

at BEWICK AND SHOEMAKER

Auspices: Ward 19 Branch, Communist Party

NOT RECORDED

61-7398-

# THE BLACK LEGION IS EXPOSED!

....But, to really "get in on the ground floor" of the exposure, it is not enough to read the Detroit Daily press, which in conspiracy with the Republican and Democratic politicians, deliberately "cover-up" and "whitewash" the <u>real</u> backers of the BLACK LEGION!

** ** **

To Read the TRUTH about the BLACK LEGION, follow the special articles in the

**SUNDAY WORKER**
(America's Biggest and Best Labor Weekly)

Single Copy . . . . . 5¢
One Year subscription . . . . $2.00

** ** **

Follow JOHN L. SPIVAK'S Sensational disclosures of the "REAL BACKERS OF THE BLACK LEGION" in the weekly NEW MASSES ---
(On Sale at all Downtown Newsstands).
Single copies . . . . . 15¢ One year subscription . . . . $4.50

** ** ** ** **

OTHER TIMELY READING RELATING TO FASCISM AND THE BLACK LEGION:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hearst, Labor Enemy Number #1 . . . | (pamphlet) . . . . . | $ .03 |
| The World Gone Mad . . . . . | (pamphlet) . . . . . | .02 |
| In the Dungeons of Mussolini . . . | (pamphlet) . . . . . | .05 |
| Behind the Swastika . . . . . | (pamphlet) . . . . . | .05 |
| The Truth of Father Coughlin . . . | (pamphlet) . . . . . | .05 |
| Imperial Hearst . . . . . | . . . . . | 2.75 |
| Hearst, Lord of San Simeon . . . . . | . . . . . | 3.00 |
| Europe Under the Terror (John L. Spivak's latest) . . | . . . . . | 2.50 |

** ** ** ** **

## SPECIAL OFFER '..'..'

Any one of the following nine $2.00 to $3.00 books can be had for only 50¢ together with a year's subscription to the SUNDAY WORKER ($2.00). Use the subscription blank on the enclosed folder:

LENIN by Ralph Fox
BELOMOR by Maxim Gorky
A WORLD TO WIN by Jack Conroy
STALIN by Henri Barbusse
SEEDS OF TOMORROW by Sholokov
CHINESE DESTINIES by Agnes Smedly
WHERE THE GHETTO ENDS by Leon Dennen
THE GREEN CORN REBELLION by William Cunningham
THE NATURE OF THE CAPITALIST CRISIS by John Strachey

NOT RECORDED

UGO CARUSI
Executive Assistant to The
Attorney General

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CARUSI

I talked to Kimball Flaccus on the telephone. He introduced his friend, Ensign Conklin who is the person mentioned in his letter. He heads the War Orientation Unit of the Educational Services Section of the Navy.

He came in and talked to me about what he knows of the Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. He has no information as a matter of fact. His background is:

1. Born, Wyandotte, Michigan

2. School, Wayne University

3. Worked summers 1934-1936 on a painters gang. Was told at that time that it would be a "good idea" to join the Black Legion.

4. Was advised by his father not to join.

He believes there are about 200 to 300 members of the Black Legion in Wyandotte, that it is a fertile field for missionaries of a good or bad type and from his observation they have no connection with Detroit operations. He calls them a lunatic fringe but he has no late information. He is just anxious to be helpful and feels that he could get information if we wanted him to.

He brought the attached material from Lt. Flaccus which is of no particular usefulness to us, I think.

P. H. C.

The whole business might be referred to the F. B. I. for what it is worth but the A. G. is not interested.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
AUG 10 1943
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California
October 6, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: BLACK LEGION
SECURITY MATTER - I
Bureau File 94-4-5929

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated 9/15/42, enclosing information from a Mrs. [redacted] Fortuna, California, that an organization, possibly subversive, known as the BLACK LEGION, was located at Ferndale, California.

An officer of the California Highway Patrol interviewed Mrs. [redacted] at which time she stated that the name BLACK LEGION was a figment of her imagination, and that she had not heard anyone else call the alleged group by that name. It is noted that Mrs. [redacted] was unable to furnish any further information regarding the group other than that her information had come from a RALPH LA COSTA, who had said that "He was asked to join a society by three men from Ferndale, but that he was afraid to join the society." (Name or type of society not known.) Attempts to locate Mr. LA COSTA have been negative.

A continuous investigation by the California Highway Patrol in the vicinity of Ferndale, California, reflected that although there had been people gathering occasionally at various homes in Ferndale in 1942, there did not seem to be nearly as many gatherings in 1943. The opinion was rendered by informants of the Highway Patrol that these might have been card parties or just plain social gatherings.

HERBERT MAAHS, Minister of St. Marks's Lutheran Church, Ferndale, informed the California Highway Patrol that the members of the church have an insurance plan which is called the "AL Insurance Company" or "Associated Lutheran Insurance Company". There is a meeting of this insurance group held every quarter. The meetings are held at the homes of members the first Tuesday after the 15th of the first month of every quarter. The names of various people, who informants stated gathered together occasionally, were presented to Mr. MAAHS, and he said that nearly all of these people belonged to the St. Marks' Lutheran Church and attended these insurance meetings. It is noted that if there were any people meeting as a group which could possibly be identified as being similar to the alleged subversive group known as the BLACK LEGION these people would be the most

61-7598-145X

OP VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

DE-INDEXED
DATE: 10

RECORDED
INDEXED

OCT 19 1943

logical contenders for that title.

Inasmuch as a thorough investigation of instant report has failed to reflect that there is any organization known as the BLACK LEGION and further that no such type of organization is known to be engaged in subversive activities in or about the Ferndale, California, area, this case is being closed.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper

N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

PES:ER
62-1491

# 2 SAY JONES JOINED THE BLACK LEGION

## Witnesses Tell Senators That They Helped Induct Him—Ohioan Denies Charge

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—Two members of the Black Legion swore today that Representative Robert F. Jones, Republican, of Ohio, joined the hooded organization at a flashlight ceremony in 1938, but Mr. Jones denied that he had and six character witnesses lauded him as a fair and tolerant man.

The conflicting testimony came at a Senate subcommittee hearing on President Truman's nomination of Mr. Jones to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

One of the self-described Black Legion members was Frank A. Barber, police chief of Beaver Dam, Ohio. He testified that he was committed to a hospital for the insane for sixty-one days in 1922, but he said that this was the result of "a frame-up." He acknowledged also that he once was jailed for "shooting a guy" in Hammond, Ill.

The other witness who said that Mr. Jones became a member of the legion was Glenn E. Webb of Lima, Ohio. He testified that he (the witness) in 1942 forged nineteen payroll checks totaling $653.86. Senators questioned the witnesses closely on their own records.

An affidavit produced by Senator Owen Brewster, Republican, of Maine, stated that still another adverse witness, Virgil Effinger of Lima, was convicted of contempt of court in 1940 and sentenced to two months in jail and ordered to pay a $200 fine.

Before the subcommittee ended its open sessions, Mr. Jones took the stand to assert for the second time that he had not joined the legion.

"There is absolutely no tie-up by me with any organizations that are subversive," Mr. Jones said. He told the subcommittee that he believed its members had "properly discounted" what he called efforts by Drew Pearson, the columnist, "to smear me."

Mr. Pearson has asserted that Mr. Jones joined the Black Legion, and that his father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. Jones also has denied the latter charge.

Messrs. Barber and Webb said that they helped induct Mr. Jones into the legion in 1938. Mr. Barber said that he administered the preliminary oath of the legion to Mr. Jones at a ceremony which took place at night on a farm near Lima. He described the legion as one of the degrees of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Webb testified that he gave the final oath as a gun was held at Mr. Jones' back. This, he added, was part of the ritual.

Mr. Effinger acknowledged that he signed an affidavit stating that he saw Mr. Jones inducted, but he said on the stand he could not remember whether the member of Congress joined. Mr. Effinger testified that he was commander of the Black Legion in Lima.

Among the character witnesses who appeared in support of Mr. Jones was the Rev. David F. Helms, pastor of the Methodist church the representative attends in Lima. He said that in areas of the Congressional district Mr. Jones represents "where the Catholic vote is strong," the House member had "always run ahead of the ticket."

Rollin R. Moxley of Lima said that Mr. Jones had proved to his satisfaction and 90 per cent of the Negroes in Lima that he was not a member of the Black Legion.

The Rev. John B. Tennelly of Washington said that in his dealings with Mr. Jones in connection with the work of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the representative "impressed me as being a gentleman and fair-minded."

The other character witnesses were Bernard Brender, a Lima merchant; Frank Lange of Piqua, Ohio, and the Rev. Charles O. Dutton of Takoma Park, Md., a college classmate of Mr. Jones.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

RECORDED & INDEXED

G.I.R.

EX-53

62-7378-A

JUL 14 1947

This is a clipping from page 2 of the New York Times for 7-8-47

Clipped at the Seat of Government

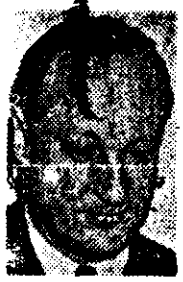
AUG 4 1947

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Black Legion Conduct in Depression Recall; Truman Checking on Deserting Democrats

*By Drew Pearson*

Lest We Forget—Some Congressmen seem apathetic about my allegation that their colleague, Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio), was once a member in the Black Legion. Perhaps they have forgotten depression days when the Black Legion was to the Ku Klux Klan what a cobra is to a garter snake.



Jones

*(Representative Jones denied emphatically on Tuesday that he was ever a member of the Black Legion—Editor's Note.)*

Black Legion started after Ku Klux Klan got smoked out by too much publicity but proved it was a good money racket . . . Dr. William Shepherd, Bellaire, Ohio, health commissioner, explains about the legion's origin as follows: "I was exalted cyclops of KKK but withdrew when Grand Dragon Colescott objected to my wearing a black robe. So I organized a 'black guard' in Ohio . . . Pretty soon the darn thing grew by leaps and bounds," continued Dr. Shepherd. "Everybody round here wanted to be one of my blacks, and started organizing black groups. You have to have mystery in a fraternal thing to keep it alive. The folks eat it up."

Came the Depression. With jobs scarce, the Black Legion got out of hand. Many labor people joined and escorted small businessmen before eerie night meetings to threaten them with fires or bodily harm if they discharged men—joining the Black Legion was one way to keep your job . . . In Detroit, however, industrialists were accused of using the Black Legion as vigilantes to combat organized labor . . . Heart of Ohio's Black Legion was Lima, home of Representative Jones, now nominated to the all-important Federal Communications Commission . . . Also living in Lima is former National Commander Virgil H. Effinger, who signed an affidavit in 1938 naming Jones as a Black Legionnaire . . . Another legionnaire, Glenn E. Webb, then on the Black Legion initiating crew, swears Jones knelt before him on a farm outside Lima, took the oath of membership. Ceremony occurred in 1935, when the legion was riding the crest.

Organized Intolerance—Roy Howard's New York World-Telegram has described it: "The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerence in America. They are cut from the same picture as anti-Red foreys into campuses, vigilante and lynching mobs, antilabor terrorism and other manifestations of special-interest racketeering wrapped up in the garb of patriotism."

## Do Farmers Strike?

Farm Bureau President Ed O'Neal, long one of the smoothest lobbyists at the Capitol, was almost, but not quite, set back on his heels last week by young Representative Walter Huber of Akron, Ohio, during O'Neal's testimony before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report.

**"The District Line" by Bill Gold is being suspended during Bill's vacation.**

Huber, who is developing into a skillful debater, stopped O'Neal to take up the question of strikes, the farm chieftain having said he might favor an even more drastic labor measure than the Taft-Hartley Bill.

"How then do you justify the strike having been called by the meat - producing farmers last fall?" Huber asked the strike-hating O'Neal.

O'Neal replied that "it was not any strike."

"They just wouldn't get out meat, is that it?" Huber persisted.

"The law of supply and demand ruled," said O'Neal.

"If you can compel the workingman to sell his labor for a certain price under certain conditions," persisted the Ohio Congressman, "then could you not compel the farmer to sell his produce, which he produces through his sweat, with the help of God and nature, for a certain price also?"

"I say we believe in collective bargaining; sure we do," O'Neal replied.

Here Committee Chairman, Senator Bob Taft, jumped in apprehensively to protest: "There is nothing in this bill (the Taft-Hartley bill) that makes any man work for anything that he does not agree to work for, except that he continues to work for 60 days after his contract ends."

"The Government sets up the wages for which he should work," said Huber.

"No," Taft replied, "there is only a 60-day period in there in a case where the whole Nation is affected by an industry. He has to continue the status quo for 60 days."

O'Neal then spoke of the long hours worked by farmers, and their anger about "how the other fellow works."

"Well," replied Huber, "I represent three rural counties and I have the highest opinion in the world for farmers and industry. But I also found some farmers who worked part time in our factories in addition to taking care of their own work."

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

G. I. R.

RECORDED & INDEXED

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EX-53

JUL 3 1947

WASHINGTON POST
Page

# Jones, FCC Appointee, Denies Race Prejudice Charge by Pearson

By the Associated Press

Representative Jones, Republican of Ohio, President Truman's nominee to the Federal Communications Commission, yesterday denied charges by Drew Pearson that he had "bigoted, anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish affiliations."

Mr. Pearson, newspaper columnist and radio commentator, testified before a Senate Commerce subcommittee that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion and that his father was an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Pearson also said that Mr. Jones' father took him to Klan meetings as a boy and "introduced him as the youngest member of the Klan." Mr. Pearson further alleged that Representative Jones once sent greetings to Gerald L. K. Smith for publication in the "Cross and Flag," Smith's magazine.

**Says Father Fought Klan.**

Mr. Jones testified that neither he nor his father ever belonged to the Klan, that his father fought the organization and was "labelled a Catholic sympathizer."

He said that he had never belonged to the Black Legion, but on the contrary had fought it, and that he had sent no greetings to Smith.

Mr. Pearson said speeches made by Mr. Jones had been quoted in "subversive" publications.

Senator Brewster, Republican, of Maine, chairman of the subcommittee, remarked:

"If you go on that basis you can't convict anybody of anything."

**To Meet Thursday.**

The subcommittee met in closed session yesterday afternoon, discussed the testimony and arranged to meet again next Thursday for a possible decision.

Chairman Brewster explained that Senator Capehart, Republican, of Indiana, had to be away, meanwhile, and that the subcommittee also wanted to see an affidavit which Mr. Pearson had promised to deliver in support of his contention that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion.

Mr. Jones was nominated to the FCC June 18, the same day the White House withdrew the reappointment of Ray C. Wakefield to the commission.

---

A dispatch to The Star from Lima, Ohio, last night quoted a former officer of the Black Legion as also denying that Representative Jones ever was a member. It read as follows:

"Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, one-time officer of the Black Legion, told the Lima News tonight that Congressman Robert F. Jones of Lima 'never was a member of the so-called Black Legion.' Effinger identified himself as a formal local commander of the organization, but denied he ever was national commander. He added that he is not now a member."

JUL 22 1947

JUN 28 1947

WASHINGTON STAR

Page

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

G.I.R.S.
RECORDED
INDEXED

EX-57

JUL 14 1947

301

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Neason
Miss Grady

# Pearson Repeats Black Legion Charge Against Jones in Letter to Sen. White

Drew Pearson, Washington columnist and broadcaster, yesterday sent to Senator Wallace H. White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, a letter protesting confirmation of Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio) as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

In testimony before the committee last Friday, Pearson alleged that the Congressman was a member of the Black Legion. The Ohioan promptly branded the charge as a lie.

In his letter to Senator White, Pearson repeated the allegation he made to the committee and submitted in support of it an affidavit signed by one Virgil H. Effinger. In a sworn statement, Effinger, a resident of Lima, Ohio, alleged that he was present at a meeting where Representative Jones took an oath as an applicant for membership in a secret society to which Pearson accused the Congressman of belonging. Pearson also asserted that one Glenn E. Webb of Lima was available to testify to some of the columnist's allegations. He called upon the Senate committee to request the FBI to investigate the charges.

C.I.R.S.

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EX-64

JUN 29 1947
WASHINGTON POST
Page 14 M

# Rep. Jones Calls Pearson a Liar

## Columnist Testifies FCC Nominee Is 'Possibly' Klansman

*By the United Press*

Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio) yesterday denied as "unmitigated lies" charges by Columnist Drew Pearson that he was a member of the Black Legion and possibly of the Ku Klux Klan.

The heated exchange highlighted a Senate Commerce subcommittee's hearing on Jones' nomination to succeed Ray C. Wakefield to a seven-year term on the Federal Communications Commission.

Pearson expressed "doubt" that Jones, as an FCC member, would give him and his associates a fair hearing on their application for a Baltimore radio station license. He said he based the statement on "evidence" from Jones' own Lima, Ohio, district.

**Alleges Link With Smith**

Jones, he said, "has been personally identified with one of the most anti-Semitic, Fascist-inclined figures in this country—namely, Gerald L. K. Smith."

Furthermore, he said, while he had no personal knowledge that Jones was a Klansman, his information was that the Congressman's father in the early 20's had introduced his son to others as "the youngest member of the Ku Klux Klan."

"I regret to make the even more serious charge that the evidence I have received . . . is that he was a member of an equally bigoted organization — anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish — namely, the Black Legion."

Jones sat quietly in the back of the hearing room listening to Pearson's testimony. When Chairman Owen Brewster (R., Me.) offered him time to prepare an answer, Jones said he was ready now.

**"Unmitigated" Lies**

As soon as he had taken his oath, he snapped:

"I brand these statements by Drew Pearson as unmitigated lies."

He said he had never been a member of the Klan and that his father, far from being a Klansman, actually was persecuted by its members because he refused to join.

"I was a foe of the Black Legion," he continued. "Nothing in my public or private life would ever recommend itself to my being a member in that type of organization."

Pearson conceded under questioning by Senator Homer E. Capehart (R., Ind.) that some of his information came from Francis Durbin, a Lima Democrat whom Capehart described as Jones' "political enemy."

Jones told the committee he knew nothing about the White House "switchover" in which President Truman withdrew Wakefield's nomination for reappointment and substituted his name instead.

**Pearson Suggests "Answer"**

But Pearson had what he thought might be part of the answer.

He recalled, under prompting, by Brewster, that he reported in a recent column that Wakefield was dropped after he voted to reject a radio station application from Robert Bartley, a nephew of House Democratic Leader Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

"As much as I love Sam Rayburn," he said, "I think they (the two events) were associated."

He said Wakefield also voted against an application for a Cincinnati radio station which had been field by Leonard Reinsch, the President's radio coach.

"But I don't know if that had anything to do with it or not," he mused.

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Clavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

E.L.R.

RECORDED
JUL 14 1947

JUN 28 1947

WASHHINGTON POST
Page 2

61-7398 -177, 178, 179,

**CHANGED TO**

157-9079-497X, 497X1, 512X,

OCT 23 1969

Jw/JKS

61-7398-NR 5/5/69

**CHANGED TO**

157-9079-NR

OCT 23 1969

Jw / JKS

JFR:FRE
48-955-0

June 25, 1929.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

LUHRING

44-2d

There is transmitted, attached hereto, a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Riders Lash St. Clairsville Man," together with a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Proof County Has Night Rider Organization Reported in Hands of Prosecuting Attorney."

This matter is being referred to you for your information and such instructions as you may care to issue in the premises.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 524357

RECORDED & INDEXED

44-114-1

BUREAU FILES DIVISION
MAILED
JUN 25 1929
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JUN 26 1929 A.M.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FILE

# PROOF COUNTY HAS NIGHT RIDER ORGANIZATIO REPORTED IN HANDS OF PROSECUTING ATTORNE

Photo[illegible], letterheads, letters and oth[illegible] statements that prov[illegible] the existence of a Night Rider organization in Belmont county will be presented to the grand jury convening Tuesday, according to a statement made today by Prosecutor George C. McKelvey in connection with the attack by nine robed persons on Lawrence Van Horne of St. Clairsville near the Hutchinson school house north of the county seat Wednesday night.

The evidence came to the prosecutor by mail yesterday. Its source was not indicated by the markings on the envelope. The prosecutor, after examining the contents, locked the envelope in his safe for later use and refused to discuss what it contains. Included were pictures of authorization issued by a Columbus detective agency and badges worn by Klansmen.

**Photos of Alleged Leaders**

Letters written by a Bellaire physician and which are said to indicate that a Night Rider organization existed in Bellaire, Morristown, Barton, Neffs and Key districts a few years ago are included as are photographs of the physician and of a woman residing near St. Clairsville, both in Klan regalia. The physician is reputed to have been the head of the Ku Klux Klan in the county and woman is said to have been similarly honored by the members of her sex allied with the organization.

Various Ohio towns, including Newark, Zanesville and Youngstown are mentioned in the documents that McKelvey says will go before the grand jury in its investigation of the beating given Van Horne for alleged conduct that did not meet with approval of a portion of the community. A Neffs resident is said to be mentioned prominently in connection with the mystery circle that is said to include persons formerly prominent in Klan activities.

McKelvey declares that, in his opinion, the attack on Van Horne is convincing proof that a Night Rider organization is active in the county. Sheriff Ford Moore, who has had a part in questioning persons connected with the investigation, deplores such activity, he stated yesterday. As yet no arrests have been made but interest in the incident was heighened yesterday by the official statement that one of the parties whose connection with the events of last Wednesday is being investigated had left town.

**Women in Party?**

Sheriff Moore scouted courthouse rumors that women were members of the party that flogged Van Horne. Names of two were mentioned as likely to figure in the grand jury investigation and evidence to show were away from their respe homes Wednesday night is to be in the hands of offic

The case to be investigat the Belmont county grand ju not the first of the kind h cent years. Only last fall girls and a man were t from an auto and as one flee other two were marched to a near Barton and threatened disaster. A Barton mine man, tried for alleged parti tion in the party, was acqu quickly by a jury in com pleas court.

At Morristown a colored allegedly friendly with a woman, was hustled to Ba ville and put on a train fo southland while a girl residi that community was the v of a tarring party which deve while she was riding along National road.

**Woodsfield Man Kidnap**

A Woodsfield resident eng in the practice of one of the fessions that is rated as an shoot of medicine is said to been ordered to leave the c try, being kidnaped in the roe county capital at his front door and taken to a in Belmont county from w he was started on a trip o the state tha is said to have Wheeling as its destination.

The county is interested i case not only from the crim angle but because Van H sued for $1,000 damages ye day under the Ohio mob law claims to have recognized voice of one of the hooded g

44-1121-1

# PACKAGE BY MAIL REVEALS NIGHT RIDERS DATA ACCORDING TO BELMONT PROSECUTOR

The United States mail today placed in the hands of Prosecutor George McKelvey of Belmont county, a package of evidence in connection with the Night Riding activities of an alleged robed and masked band in the Eastern Ohio district. This evidence, the prosecutor said, in his office at St. Clairsville, is more good fortune than the state had expected.

It purports to show that a Night Riders organization existed in Belmont county and that its former members may have had a part in the whipping of H. L. "Pete" Van Horn, St. Clairsville painter on the Maynard highway last Wednesday night and in other operations of this type in Eastern Ohio which includes the Barton case of a year ago, when a young man was threatened with hanging; the tarring of a Morristown girl and the chasing from town of a Negro.

The packet now in the hands of the prosecutor includes the photo of a Bellaire physician and a St. Clairsville woman, attired in the garb of the Ku Klux Klan and another photo of badges issued to officers of the organization by a Clumbus detective agency. Commissions from the same agency are exhibited and these men, it is charged, served as supposed officers of the law.

Prosecutor McKelvey today declared one St. Clairsville man had left town yesterday but that he could be located when needed for questioning. The Van Horn case will go to the grand jury when it meets next Tuesday, McKelvey said today but had nothing to reveal as to the names of persons under suspicion in the whipping of the St. Clairsville painted.

One report which had gained some strength, and which had women in the party which whipped Van Horn after rmoving him from his auto on the Maynard highway, is scouted by Sheriff Ford Moore who has been investigating the matter and declares no evidence has been found to support this contention.

# TRIDER

## Remnants

# S' LASH ST. CLAI

## s of Whipped Rebel Arn

# DRAGGED FROM AUTO, WHIPPED PAINTER SAYS

### Lawrence Van Horn Tells Authorities of Manhandling Near Maynard

### ATTACKERS HOODED, TELLS AUTHORITIES

Lawrence Van Horn, 33, St. Clairsville painter, today reported to county authorities that he was stopped in his automobile on the Maynard road, two miles west of St. Clairsville, last night at 9 o'clock by a band of hooded "Night Riders," dragged to a nearby school house and severely whipped before being released.

The victim appeared at the office of Justice of the Peace C. B. Bradfield today at noon and told him the story of the attack. He exhibited bruises and flesh wounds on the back to substantiate his statements that he had been beaten with whips. He said he believed he recognized one of his assailants and asked that a warrant be sworn out for his arrest, but was advised to make a further investigation into the affair before causing any arrests.

**Version of Attack**

According to Van Horn's version of the attack, he was riding in his machine with a friend and they were on their way to Maynard to get "a drink." He said the car was about half way to Maynard and traveling along at a moderate speed in the dark when he saw nine men, wearing black robes, step out into the road. He brought the machine to an abrupt halt and one of the hooded men approached and ordered him out of the car, he said.

Van Horn said the "Night Riders" did not molest his friend, but merely ordered him "to go on." He was forced to accompany his black-robed captors across a field and to a little school house, the location of which he was unable to determine in the darkness. The victim said he was taken inside the school house, thrown on the floor and subjected to a severe beating with fists and whips. His coat and shirt were torn off his back, he claims.

**Second Attack**

Last night's incident was followed by an attack upon Van Horn this morning at 10 o'clock in front of the post office at St. Clairsville. He was approached by a man, whose identity has not been learned, and the latter is reported to have made some accusation, which VanHorn resented. A fist fight developed and the principals were engaged in a hot hand-to-hand encounter when Marshal Don Hardesty arrived on the scene and separated them.

VanHorn lives on Marietta st., St. Clairsville, and is a painter by occupation. He was married but his wife died several years ago. He is the father of one son.

44-14-1

SVILLE MAN

*Retreat to Hills*

WHEELING
JUN 21
1930
W. VA.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS 2

The Department of Justice

Washington.

D.C.

EWTihn

August 23, 1940

RECORDED 94-4-39602-5

Mr. Lloyd Paradise
R. F. D. 2
Lake Orion, Michigan

Dear Mr. Paradise:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 8, 1940.

It was indeed kind of you to bring this information to my attention, and your courtesy and interest in so doing are sincerely appreciated. Should you obtain any further information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with Mr. J. S. Bugas, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 911 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Detroit
(With copies of incoming)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gleason
Mr. Clayton
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 23 1940
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

R.F.D. 
Lake Orion, Michigan
August 1, 1940

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover,

After reading your excellent articles in the Detroit Sunday News, "This Week Magazine," with much interest, and the President's message to the federal-state conference on law enforcement problems arising from the preparedness program, my mind reverted to some clippings.

I am enclosing these clippings; they propose to deal with anti fifth column activities in Oakland County and in Michigan, which seem to be headed by our Oakland County prosecutor, Charles Wilson, and our former governor, Wilbur Brucker.

This leadership seems rather strange to me as both these men are alleged to have had connections with the Black Legion. Also Irving Unger, an incorporator of the American Citizens League, is known to me as a Coughlin Catholic.

Wilson was elected to the prosecutor's office, it is alleged, by the underworld rats, of whom you speak in one of your articles, together with some unscrupulous business men. I was told by severa Republicans that they were ashamed to have him on their ticket but would do nothing about it.

Before the investigation of the Black Legion began in Wayne County, Wilbur Brucker had been a speaker at a Black Legion meeting reported in the Detroit News. I recall having read the account of Brucker addressing such a meeting in Findlater Hall, Detroit. Bein a Mason in principle and not just a member of some lodge, I was shocked at the use of that hall for such a meeting, because I had s in lodge in Findlater Hall, which belonged to a Masonic lodge of th name; but I learned later that it had been taken over by some bank insurance company.

Brucker was also Michigan head of a group known as the Constit tional Protective League, discussed in a letter which I am enclosin

In my opinion one of the big est jobs for you will be to fumig the odor from some of these patriotic groups.

Vigilanti

With kind regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours for more democrary and less hypocrisy
in our social and economic life.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd Paradise

ENCL. J

94-4-3762-
RECORDED & INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 27 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 12 RECD

C O P Y

THE DETROIT NEWS
The Home Newspaper

Detroit, Michigan
February 6, 1936

L. Paradise
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Sir:-

This league (Constitutional Protestive League) was incorporate in New York in 1934, ostensibly to defend the constitution of the U.S. and of the 48 states against "subversive influence", but actually according to its opponents, to fight the New Deal. In this state ex-Gov. Brucker has been a leader in it; one of its directors is Ernest Rush of Dearborn. There are a number of other associations of similar names, all fighting the present administrat and its policies.

Very truly yours,

THE DETROIT NEWS
Answers

97-4000-762-5

# Wilson Wars on Saboteurs

Detroit News June 27

## Says 5 Alien Groups Are Active in Oakland

PONTIAC, Mich., June 27.—Citizens of Oakland County were advised to be watchful of fifth column activities in a statement issued today by Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, secretary of the new formed American Citizens Defense League which has statewide membership.

"It is the determination of the league," Wilson said, "that at every probable point where a saboteur may be at work, there is a responsible American citizen watching. This league is not formed for the purpose of witch-hunting or persecuting persons of foreign birth. It is intended as a guard against treachery.

"It is my hope the citizens of this community will volunteer their services. Here is an opportunity to serve at home against the element which undoubtedly contributed to the overthrow of nations abroad.

"Oakland County industries are vital to our armament program. There must be no hitch if we are thrown suddenly on a war footing. Already local officers and State police have discovered evidence of so-called fifth column activities. In Oakland County these undoubtedly would threaten production in our plants in the time of war.

"This office has before it reports that at least four pro-Nazi and Communistic organizations have headquarters in Oakland County. We know that subversive elements have been attempting to influence the attitude of citizens of this community. America can fight an enemy attacking from without. Watchful citizens at home can take care of those who would attack our vital industries from within."

# Hunt 5th Column, Oakland Is Urged

PONTIAC, June 27—Calling on residents of Oakland County to aid in a hunt for Fifth Columnists in the municipality's vital industries, Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, secretary of the recently formed American Citizens Defense League, declared Thursday that at least four Nazi and Communist groups had headquarters in the county.

"These persons will undoubtedly threaten production in our plants in time of war and disaffect our people when loyalty should overshadow all else," Wilson said.

# 5th Column Foes Plan Corporation

7/1/40

LANSING, Mich., June 30.—(AP)—State Senator Joseph A. Baldwin, of Albion, said today that he and other organizers of the American Citizens League would file articles of incorporation this week as a non-profit organization. Among the league's objectives is the unmasking of fifth column activities in the United States.

Following incorporation, Baldwin said, the league will name a board of trustees and then name county executive committees to act on membership applications. He said other incorporators were Irvine Unger, Detroit; Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, of Pontiac; Dr. Stewart McArthur, Mt. Pleasant, and Dr. F. H. Bradshaw, Lansing.

Baldwin, author of numerous bills designed to combat subversive activities, said one purpose of the league would be "to propose and support legislation designed to uncover and eliminate secret camps and military organizations of foreign allegiance."

The league, he said, will co-operate with all law enforcement agencies and all civic and fraternal organization Americanization committees.

President Roosevelt:

You ask us to shed blood for our country; We proudly shall;

But why in Heaven 's name shall our enemies be permitted to dessimate poisonous propoganda in this country while we may have to sacrifice our lives, our jobs, our homes.

In the name of God and Humanity we ask you to crush this traitorous scum.... Now....

The following pro - nazi, pro - fascist, names and organizations, and many others, are traitors to our country.

| | |
|---|---|
| Nationalist Newsletter | Col. Winfield Jones. |
| Charles Hudson. | Jacob Thorkelson |
| Girald B. Winrod. | Christian Front. |
| William Dudly Pelley. | Klu Klux Klan. |
| Father Coughlin. | Gen. George Mosely. |
| Black Legion. | Tocsin Publishers. |
| Joseph E. Williams. | George Christian. |

etc. ..- ..- ..- etc.

Enact Legislation making the Preaching of Racial Hatred A Federal Offence.

A true citizen
Nancy Grace

10 FEB 19 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAR 7 1942

July 1, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. TAMM
MR. LADD

This morning Mr. Drew Pearson, Columnist, called to see me and left with me the attached photostatic copies of affidavits made by Virgil H. Effinger, Glenn E. Webb and Frank Barber concerning the initiation into the Black Legion of Congressman Robert F. Jones of Lima, Ohio, who has recently been nominated by the President for a position on the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. Pearson stated that he thought that eventually there might be referred to the Department for investigation a matter of perjury in that Congressman Jones had testified under oath, concerning his nomination to the FCC, that he had never been a member of the Black Legion.

I think it might be well to transmit to the Attorney General at once copies of these affidavits, advising him that they have been left with the Bureau by Mr. Pearson.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCLO

Attachment (With Mr. Tolson's copy)

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:30
DATE 7-1-47
BY

RECORDED & INDEXED

JEH:EH

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

58 JUL 18 1947

~~60 JUL 10 1947~~

State of Ohio,

Affidavit

Allen County, ss.

Virgil Herbert Effinger, being first duly sworn, says that he was personally present at a meeting of the Black Legion when Robert F. Jones, of Lima, Ohio, took the oath required to be taken by all applicants for memebership in said organization.

Virgil H. Effinger

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 1st day of October, A.D., 1938.

Pauline M. Pool

Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio

PAULINE M. POOL
Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio
My commission expires Nov. 1, 1939

COPY

AFFIDAVIT

State of Ohio

County of Allen, ss.

I, Glenn E. Webb, hereby being duly sworn, swear on oath that I initiated Robert F. Jones into the Black Legion on the Tapscott Farm, east of Lima, Ohio. Robert Jones kneeled before me where I could see him face to face - with a gun at his back, according to our ritual, as he accepted the oath of obligation. The ceremony took place around 1935.

(Signed) GLENN E. WEBB

Sworn to before me and in my presence this 28th day of June, 1947.

/s/ Leon N. Stone
Notary Public for the
State of Ohio

Copy of affidavit

I, Frank Barber, administered the preliminary obligation to Robert F. Jones prior to his joining the Patriotic Legion of America, commonly known as the Black Legion. I remember that the ceremony took place in the woods on Tapscott Farm about two miles from the city of Lima, Ohio. I believe it was the year 1934 as nearly as I can remember. I definitely remember it was before Robert Jones became county attorney because it was the Patriotic Legion of America which helped place him in that office.

June 30 (s) Frank Barber

Witnessed by Joseph B. Emmons
and Jack Anderson

Notorized by Leon N. Stone

62-38245-26

ENCLOSURE

320

COPY COPY COPY

State of Ohio,

Affidavit

Allen County, ss.

Virgil Herbert Effinger, being first duly sworn, says that he was personally present at a meeting of the Black Legion when Robert F. Jones, of Lima, Ohio, took the oath required to be taken by all applicants for membership in said organization.

(s) Virgil H. Effinger

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 1st day of October, A.D., 1938.

(s) Pauline M. Pool
Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio

PAULINE M. POOL
Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio
My commission expires, Nov. 3, 1939

60-33643-2C

221

Memorandum regarding Robert F. Jones and the Black Legion

J. Beaver Falls

Witness Frank Barber is Chief of Police in a small town outside Lima.

Witness Glenn E. Webb, something of a professional joiner, and who has belonged to various organizations in the past, is now prominent in the United Automobile Workers.

Witness Virgil H. Effinger, former head of the Black Legion, is now quite old. On Friday, June 27, he was questioned by the editor of the Lima News, who is very pro-Jones, as to whether Jones was ever a member of the Black Legion. Effinger replied in the negative. But on Saturday, June 28, Effinger was told that Drew Pearson had possession of an affidavit signed by him, that Jones was a member of the Black Legion. He was then asked whether he had ever signed such an affidavit. His reply, quoted by the Lima News was, "I don't know. I'm getting too old to remember those things now."

Effinger's affidavit is reported to have been signed in front of his attorney, Clarence Miller, who can doubtless testify to its veracity. Since the notary public, Pauline Pool, signed the affidavit in 1938, obviously she could not remember the hundreds of affidavits she has notarized. However, if a photostat of the original copy were shown her (original copy now on file with Senator White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee), doubtless she will recognize her own signature.

60-3310-20

ENCLOSURE

[illegible] Philadelphia, [illegible], It [illegible] to have been [illegible] and advocates [illegible] Union [illegible] It [illegible] colors, and shows the United States in possiession of Canada, Iceland, Australia.

England controls all the Mediterranean ports.

Stalin controls a vast land Empire, going up through the Balkans, Poland, Finland, Esthonia, Roumania, Lativa and part of Germany.

We believe Germany is broken up in the map as we remember a description of it.

There is something about China in it but we can't remember it.

---

The "Invasion " money is reported to have Roosevelt's and Churchill's picture on it.

It is definitely known that the money was printed in Washington, D. C. and is stored there.

DEGualle has warned the French against this money, saying that it will " despoil" them of their possessions.

DeGaulle was scheduled to send 800 officers with American forces which invaded France. He sulked in his tent and finally consented to send 2[illegible]. He stayed in Normandy long enough to have his picture taken as the "Savior" of France and then retired to let the English and Americans win his country back for him. Not before issuing a warning against accepting "invasion" money, however.

---

Two negroes and a Jew have bought Blossom Heath which is a famous gambling joint in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. This a a large place, many miles from where any negro lives and planked right down in the middle of a nice settlement of white people. To get to it they have to pas thru the exclusive Grosse Pointe section. The city fathers are stalling on issuing a license and the attornies for the negroes have threatened to mandamus them and force them to issue a bar and restaurant license. They will have to eventually issue same.

A group of negroes are reported to be negotiating to buy some boat club in Detroit or Grosse Pointe.

This situation has the makings of a race riot for St. Claire Shores has a large number of members of the Ku Klux Klan and Black Legion living there. They are mostly employed at Hudson Motor and Packard factories which have long been known as strongholds of the Klan and Black Legion.

RECORDED

191

CO 287

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RGG:djw

June 28, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

re: PEARSON AND ALLEN BROADCAST
7:00 P.M., June 27, 1943

Home front fighting is Japanese inspired by propaganda. Dies to allow negro leaders to air grievances. "Fighting on the home front:- Last week the United States of America, especially in Detroit, approached some of the internal strife which featured the great republic of France before she fell asunder. Now I can reveal that when Winston Churchill was in Washington, one problem which concerned him and President Roosevelt most was the manner in which Japan had gained favor with the Filipino people and with the Maylays and the Siamese. Very cleverly the Japs have preached that this is a white man's war and that today the Japs are out to protect the colored races. This propaganda, President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill found, has made very serious headway. Then last week in Detroit a gang of hotbloods, inspired by the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, did their country a great injustice and played into the hands of these Jap propagandists. When the wounded sat in crowded hospitals waiting for treatment, white and black chatted and exchanged cigarettes together, showing that basically they had no bitterness but were stirred up by some un-American influence. Congressman Martin Dies, who comes from the South, informs me that he intends to give negro leaders a chance to tell their grievance to his committee and to ferret out whatever un-American influence it was that inspired these unpatriotic riots. . . . . ."

There is no basis or substantiation from any source in regard to these allegations. The FBI is not conducting an investigation regarding this matter, but a memorandum has been submitted to the Attorney General submitting all the facts. However, it is believed that the War Department has placed credence in these reports and is taking Taka Nakane, also known as Major Takahashi, from internment to Detroit for questioning. This individual was placed in the penitentiary from 1939 to 1942 for illegal entry into the United States and on exit from incarceration was picked up by Bureau Agents and has been interned since.

Lewis to be indicted under new anti-strike legislation next October if strike occurs then. Pearson said, ". . . . I can reveal that the Justice Department has been studying moves to indict Lewis. They found no legal means of doing so under existing law last week. Under the new anti-strike legislation, Lewis could be indicted and will be if there is another strike in October. . . . ."

RECORDED & INDEXED

Franco, knowing that democracies are to win war, will restore the monarchy and hide behind regal robes. Pearson stated, "Madrid:- Dictator Franco of Spain has decided to restore the monarchy in Spain for only one reason--he knows

OP VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

JUL 16 1943

that the democracies are going to win this war and that his 'pals', Hitler and Mussolini, are finished. The restoration of the monarchy will give Franco a chance to hide behind regal robes. The State Department career clique, as usual, is helping him."

Respectfully,

Rush G. Glick

EFF:MC

62-43899 -1

RECORDED & INDEXED

June 19, 1936.

Mr. A. H. Johnson,
Caitus Regional Office #6,
1015 Transportation Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 6, 1936, furnishing information relative to the organization Caitus, of which you are a member of the advisory board.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to conducting investigations in matters relevant to the violation of specific Federal laws. The contents of your communication and the attached circular entitled "Caitus" have been carefully noted, but under the existing policies of this Bureau, I must advise you that I am unable to endorse or pass upon the legality or propriety of your organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc Detroit

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 20 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED
270 OCT 14 1964

62-43899-1

PHO - RANDOLPH 3994

# CAITUS

REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 6

1015 TRANSPORTATION BLDG.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

June 6th, 1936

POSTMASTER GENERAL
Washington, D.C. (Original)

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. (Copy)

Ack. 6/19/36
cc: Detroit
F.F.

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that, prompted by the recent outbreaks of Black-Legionism in this territory, which is only a small part of the reactionist-nativist fanatic spirit and secret activity reported from every part of the United States;
and fearing that our activity in this and adjoining territory ; the activity of the C A I T U S in a larger sense, will be met by the above secret organizations by denouncing us to the authorities; and in every other way tried to be arrested and stamped out;
upon legal advise we are taking these steps to protect ourselves and our legally permissible enrollment of prospects for membership in the C A I T U S , by submitting to the above named two governmental agencies , as follows:

1.- The above Regional Office No. 6 operates in Southeastern Michigan, northwestern Ohio and northeastern Indiana.

2.- Said operations in the said Region are in the hands of Ernest E. Zidock, until recently and for nine years employee of the General Motors; native Czech, German upringing, naturalized at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the year 1914 ( viz: in February, 1914). Zidock has had engineering training in Germany; has had a thourough academic education; he is known in this country by his literary contributions to technical publications, Sheet Metal Worker of New York, American Artisa of Chicago, and others. Also, under the name of Arnost E. Zid his original Czech name, he wrote for years in Czech publicat in this country. Also, in the years 1920-22 he was Instructor New York City with the Federal Board. He was instrumental i effecting the Slavic unity on the Pacific Coast alluded to i attached printed matter.

RECORDED & INDEXED

3. We are submitting PRINTED MATTER approved by us and used by the above Detroit Office. Said printed matter will be mail It invites Postal inspection.

4.- The rules for solicitors of Enrollments in the C A I T U

./.

COPIES DESTROYED
270 OCT 14 1964

and the set rules for [illegible] of voluntary contributio[illegible] by persons to CA[illegible], [illegible] in the printed instruc[illegible]tions here attached. This might invite attention by the De[illegible] of Justice, Bureau of Investigation.

5.- Advertising in newspapers, mail to solicitors, agents, all is governed by the same printed instructions.

6.- Stipulated 10% of fees, collected from contributors to effect their organization into the C A I T U S , is being put in Trust by E.E.Zideck. Same applies or, will apply, to Offices established in Toledo , Flint and other places.

7.- E.E. Zideck is responsible to the authorities for his appointees, aids, agents and other such help engaging in the collection of fees for Enrollment in the C A I T U S. He is responsible, in his District embracing the above name[illegible] territory, for the 10% of fees being deposited to the Credi[illegible] of the Advisory Board of the CAITUS. He is responsible to the Advisory Board alone for strict accounting and results.

8.- By the use of Enrollment Cards in triplicate, as here submitted, the middle portion being received and kept by the Executive Secretary of the Board for execution of propo[illegible] Membership Certificate; and by strict adherance to the rule[illegible] as published in the Printed Matter; we believe that any fal[illegible] or fraudulent collections of fees under the name of C A I [illegible] as also mismanagement of the stipulated proceedings have be[illegible] guarded against; and that there shall be no reason for inter[illegible]ference by either the Postal Authorities or, the Department of Justice.

9.- There have been, and are, apprehensions as to what the Twenty Million Strong Alliance , composed largely of the Foreign-Born. might do once united and organized. Such apprehensions , if propagig trouble, are wholly unfounded. The Alliance is for PROTECTION. Political, social, actual. But whoever believes that Jews and Catholics, Nordics and La[illegible]tins and Slavics and the conglomeration of the other element might be united into a politically and economically divergen[illegible] force from the established belief and order, he is a dreame[illegible]

10.- On the contrary, the Alliance will, by its very constitu[illegible] support the established Order, and it is by means of Educati[illegible] through the uniform English language publications that the Alliance will be led on to more progressive, more liberal beliefs and tendencies. That, we hope, is much more preferab[illegible] to the Twenty Million becoming a [illegible] in the hands of the ul[illegible] radicalist tendency, of which there is evidence enough.

CAITUS ADVISORY BOARD
President Member:

Caitus Advisory Board

62-4[illegible]

No. [illegible]

## ENROLLMENT NOTICE

ORGANIZER: Fill out and forward with [illegible] the Regional Office.

Organizer's Number .....

Fee Collected $ .....

Forwarded $.....

---

No. 1324

### Request for Enrollment in the Caitus

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Wife, Children .....

**Address and Mail to:**

1015 TRANSPORTATION BLDG. DETROIT, MICH.

---

No. 1324

## CAITUS

### Enrollment Certificate

(Preliminary) Embracing the Undersigned

.....

and .....

.....

.....

62-4[illegible]-1

# CAITUS CREDENTIALS

Issued to

Address

1140 Michigan Avenue

Detroit, Michigan

**For CAITUS Organization Work in the Territory of**

South East District

City of Detroit, Michigan.

**Caitus Organization Department**

**Region No.** 6

*Signed:*

MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD

**Regional Office Stamp:**

CAITUS
REG. OFFICE No. 6

# TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Reactionary forces are [illegible] trying to arrest the progressive tendencies advocated by the Conscientious Intellectual, the Advanced Labor Movement partly by the Churches, and in part embodied in the New Deal. They are arousing chauvinism, nativism and fanaticism to proceed in this country as the proponents of Reaction proceeded in Italy, Austria and Germany. They calculate that, in the so provoked attacks, life, [illegible] and property destroying mob rule, they will be able to **convince the intimidated populace of the need of a Dictatorship in the United States.**

As in Germany, the **attackable** human material in this country would be the Jew, the Catholic, the advanced Labor Unionist, the honest Intellectual and, principally, the FOREIGN-BORN. It is to be expected that the Mob, once incited and let loose, would find it the least dangerous and the most profitable to loot the Jewish stores and concentrate on the destruction of the businesses, establishments and homes of the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Poles, the Latins and Greeks, the Slavics and the number of other nationalities and foreign language groups in our midst. **Progressively, there would be other victims.**

**ONLY A TWENTY MILLION STRONG ALLIANCE** of all the above **attackable** human material in the United States is able to **hold back the reactionary forces** from introducing here the Hitler tactics and in the ensuing riots and bloodshed and destruction fasten a fanatico-tyranical rule over the American people. Only such a strong Alliance, **equipped and prepared for whatever trouble,** will warn the Mob to stay away. Only such an Alliance, its constituents aiding and protecting each other, its management in hands of wide-awake, fearless, quick acting men and women, will be fit to face whatever disturbances and mob psychology are developing in this country, and **PREVENT** here a repetition of what is happening in Europe; in effect, prevent a [illegible] here, which would result in [illegible] wholesale massacres, and deprive [illegible] **people of the last vestige of liberty and political and economic values for which their forbearers strove, suffered and died.**

**Such an Alliance is in formation now.** Organizers are at work throughout the country, Catholics, Jews, Catholics, Trackers, Progressive Labor, and the Foreign-born and their families are members of the Alliance. The organizing work is being conducted by an **ADVISORY BOARD** composed of a number of intellectuals, a number of the advanced leaders of the Foreign-born, a number of men and women, representative of the entire United States, of the Jew, the Catholic, the advanced Labor Unionist.

**Facing obstacles put in the way by the reactionaries; especially so when these fanatics saw the Twenty Million strong foreign-language citizenry in this country being organized against their Hitlerite plans; the ADVISORY BOARD has instructed its members and delegates conducting the organizing work in different parts of the country to have this Document and Instructions printed for use by the organizers, their aids or agent.**

## INSTRUCTIONS TO ORGANIZERS

1. The name of the Alliance is **CAITUS,** meaning: **Contrafascist Alliance in the United States.**
2. Persons engaged in the Enrollment of Members for the Alliance must carry and display a Card bearing this authorized version of **WHY AND WHAT FOR** we organize. Each person approached for enrollment must be appraised of these contents.
3. Organizers, their aids and agents are authorized to collect a fee from persons enrolled, One Dollar from individuals and, Two Dollars for the entire family, making the

62-43879-1

members of each family, wife and children, enrolled together with the father. The payee of the fee must be appraised that enrollment is a voluntary act and the payment of the fee a voluntary contribution towards carrying on the organizing work.

4. Organizers are provided with Cards perforated in two places, each such Card having 3 parts, each such part being numbered identically. After filling out all 3 parts as directed, and signed, the organizer retains one part and leaves two parts in the hands of the enrolled member. The organizer forwards his portion of the Enrollment Card, together with 40% of the fee collected, to the office by which employed (Regional Office). The enrolled member retains the portion of the Card marked "Enrollment Certificate" and forwards the other portion to the Regional Office. **These directions must be strictly complied with to insure unobstructed organization work.**

5. When a sufficient number of members in any one neighborhood or, of any one identical language is enrolled, the Regional Office proceeds to organize them into Neighborhood and Language Groups, each such Group sending two delegates to the Regional Unit, by which the Groups are governed thereafter. Each Regional Unit will send two delegates to the National Convention of the CAITUS, to be held in Chicago, in January, 1937.

CAITUS ADVISORY BOARD.

CAITUS Advisory Board

62-43877-1

# CAITUS

## A Short, Short Story

On the Pacific Coast were living, scattered here and there, small groups of Poles, Russians, Serbians, Bulgarians, Czechoslovaks, Ukranians, Croatians and Slovenes. Separated one from the other, nourished on old-country hatreds, one of the other, these groups had little interest, and no voice, in the affairs of their community, State, or this, their adopted country. They were slighted, discriminated against, with **no protection from whatever source.** They, in their nationalistic and narrow minded isolation, were practically zero in citizenship, in social, cultural and other values of American life. They furnished, in that state of mind and social regard, a pliable human material into the hands of any demagogue who came along.

**That has been changed.** The seeming impossible has been accomplished. The Pole was made to forget his hating the Russian, the Croat the Serbian, this fellow the Bulgarian, etc., etc., and vice versa. Today these nationalities are all united, with a common English language newspaper, "The Slavic News", at Los Angeles, a common Auditorium nearby, a common human, civic and cultural bond making them **strong, respected and protected.**

• • •

Along the above lines, **CAITUS** is proceeding now to organize all the foreign-born and their families, citizens of the United States. The almost impossible is being done. Jews and Catholics, Germans and Poles, Scandinavians and Slavics, Latins, Greeks, all the other foreign-born or foreign language elements in our midst are being **enrolled for membership in the CAITUS, the twenty-million strong Alliance for Mutual Aid and Protection,** which shall, by means of a nation-wide, common newspaper, printed in English, and by other educational and informatory means, lead on its readers and members and make of them an integral part of American life, but also a part of that life that **will not, mutely and unprotected, submit to discrimination; to victimization, respectively in whatever reactionary or mob psychology disorders or upheavals are developing in this country.**

• • •

If someone donated **twenty million dollars** to be used in organizing the above elements along the lines outlined, the money would be squandered, its disbursers would become bosses, the **Alliance** if ever accomplished by that money being spent, would be subject to graft, money squabbles, dictatorial influence and **disunion** in the very start.

That is why **CAITUS** accepts no money from whatever source, but **lets each prospective member contribute voluntarily, One Dollar toward the organization work, enrollment of members primarily being done.** Strict accounting is essential. Sixty per cent of the dollar contributed goes to the organizing or enrolling force. Thirty per cent is allotted to Regional Offices employing organizers and facilitating their work. And only ten per cent of the dollar paid in is reserved for the CAITUS Treasury, by which shall be financed a National Convention of Delegates planned for January, 1937, and such other activities of the CAITUS as shall be determined by the said Convention.

Accordingly, each of the several Regional Offices of the Caitus, conducting Membership Enrollment Work, is responsible for ten per cent of all the fees so paid.

**The Advisory Board of the Caitus** is composed of individuals, men and women, scattered all over the country. A member of the Advisory Board inaugurates and supervises Regional Office activities. Regional Office Managers, when so appointed by the said Board Member, are put under Bond for the Ten per cent of Fees and for strict conduct of the Enrollment Work, as stipulated.

**CAITUS Advisory Board**

Stamp:

Signed _____

6-4138 9-1

Newman
Pl

Washington - D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 2 1936

62-2953-8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 29 1936

Dear Mr. Trow

Your letter of the 7th inst. asks what you to think that I am a Nut Cranks, but you live by experience and understanding from local people, at least, a man that about eight years, we an experience I acquired at a town in Virginia, namely Covington - which is situated along the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad - the main supporting feature of Covington is a huge pulp and paper mill - I have followed a line of D[illegible] for years which they tried to blow out

[illegible]
[illegible] and I and the cabin by [illegible]
of the [illegible], a [illegible] guard
one Sunday morning as I was
at the fireplace, a knock came
at the door, I went to open
it, behold there
young men, jointly twenty five
years of age - I invited them in,
and when they got in with me
the light from the fireplace threw
prominent shadows upon them
I noticed, that each had a black
silk handkerchief around his
neck - and wore a uniform
of black, or dark green - they
were high land men, all wore
uniforms alike, they at once
started towards me and [illegible]
[illegible]
I was with Washington on a

the many uniformed gentlemen
we encountered during the day departed
the following day I ascertained
my passport might be procured
the people were I learned and
called themselves they could
enlightenment on other and
gentlemen men, and why
they wore the uniform
dist, nobody could enlighten
me, I thought possibly it was
a black hand uniform, but
learned that only one class
of citizens [illegible] in the
town, the police in uniform,
I was more able to determine
who my gentlemen were, and
what organization they represented,
however, on still my inquiries
of the matter got tired they
have been state officials —
[illegible] would have travelled

necessary [illegible]
might, by a particular [illegible]
coming against the house where
I was located, thinking [illegible]
would have I paid no
attention to the matter, but at
each night it continued I advised
a party that I intended to report
to the sheriff for prosecution,
and was told, that among the
political prisoners I would look
for no help from him, I at
once appealed to the Government
Beyond [illegible] to my release
and the reign of persecution
stopped — I afterwards was told,
that a many politically [illegible]
charged, that they were [illegible]
in prisoners, why I cannot
[illegible] — [illegible]

10

## WEATHER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—Fair tonight and Sunday, with overcast near coast in morning, no change in temperature.

FROM NEWSBOYS, THREE CENTS

# UGHT

# 16 FANATICS HELD AFTER MAN SLAIN

## Weird Moral Code Based On K.K.K. Exposed In Detroit

(Copyright, 1936, by United Press)

DETROIT, —(U.P.)— The black legion, 16 of whose members are threatened with murder charges from the death of a victim of a "night ride" has had scores of victims, police believed today. Preliminary investigation revealed an organization held together by weird oaths and terrorism and pledged to upholding a fanatical moral code and to enforcing a vindictive conception of "Americanism."

Authorities promised to file murder charges against 9 of the 16 today. They took part, police said, in the execution of Charles A. Poole, 32, a WPA worker who had been charged and convicted by the legion of beating his wife. He was stood up at the edge of a roadside ditch and shot by Dalton Dean, 36, who confessed firing the shots, police said.

Police began an investigation of relatives and friends of the 16 men, believing they would not only find more members of the secret, night-riding society but victims of its moral crusade. Detectives believed almost all its past victims had been tied to trees in lonely woods and flogged.

Most of the victims, police believed, were charged with unfaithfulness to wives, of seducing girls and other moral delin-

[illegible] anti-commu[illegible] at it had [illegible] against any [illegible] groups for his [illegible] beliefs.

**[illegible] Victims"**

"The legion undoubtedly had many victims," Inspector Henry I. Navarre, commander of the police homicide bureau, said. "Just how many, we can't say at this time."

Navarre believed the victims of the legion had been taken largely from among relatives and acquaintances of its members. He and his investigators already had determined that Poole was innocent of the charge for which the legion tried and executed him. His wife, who gave birth to a son the day after he was slain, said he had never beaten her.

The 16 men held, ranging in age from 16 to 60, all factory workers, and all seemingly more proud than afraid, maintained a close-lipped silence. Navarre indicated that death was the legion's penalty for members who told its secrets, and that the men held were afraid of the vengeance of their brethren still at large. He believed that the legion had 60 members, and he ordered the arrest of the other 44.

Urban Lipps, 32, one of the men held, was the most communicative. He admitted having taken part in the execution of Poole, but said he had participated in no other "jobs." He had been a member for six months, he said, and he understood that the legion had "taken care" of a number of "rats."

**Describes Ritual**

Lipps described to police the ritual of initiation. After he had been accepted as worthy of membership (protestant and white), he was taken to a secret meeting place. The members of the legion surrounded him, dressed in flowing black robes, masked, the white stain of their skull and cross-bone insignia, on breast and cockaded hats, glittering in the poor light. At a command, he knelt. A legionnaire pressed a pistol against his heart and he was told to raise his right hand and take the oath.

Police were not immediately able to learn the exact wording of the oath, but Lipps said he swore to guard the secrets of the legion with his life, that he understood he would be killed if he betrayed it any way.

Lipps intimated, police said, that one of the requirements of membership in the black legion was membership in the Ku Klux Klan, which still survives, a weak shadow of its strength a decade ago. Lipps understood that the legion had chapters in all parts of the country and hundreds of members, but he knew no details of the national organization. The national commander, he said, had the title of major general but he did not know his name or his headquarters.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Declassification
DATE 3/9/78 GAS/KC

Detroit, Michigan
April 12 - 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

Re [redacted]
CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL
DEFENSE INFORMANT [redacted]

Dear Sir:

[redacted] Port Huron, Michigan, was introduced to Special Agent Francis P. Parker, Resident Agent at Port Huron, by Captain DANIEL L. O'LEARY of the Port Huron Police Department.

[redacted] is forty-four years of age, having been born [redacted] 1900, and is a life-long resident of Port Huron. He was formerly a member of the Black Legion in Port Huron and advised he joined this organization only because in the beginning he thought it was a Republican group. He attended three meetings, but during the course of those meetings he advised he met a great deal of the men and has furnished Agent Parker a list of those men which has been incorporated in the files of the Detroit Field Office.

He advised he is willing to give information at any time whatsoever relative to the Black Legion and other subversive groups in and around Port Huron and he is being designated as a confidential national defense informant inasmuch as he has requested that under no circumstances should his name be made public.

He is a [redacted] but is in Port Huron every week end. He does not desire reimbursement for information and advised he will give this information for the reason that he is a good citizen. His membership in the Black Legion was in 1936.

[redacted] will be referred to in the future as [redacted]

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin

R. A. GUERIN, SAC

FPP/mam

DECLASSIFIED BY 2909
ON 2-7-78
DPS/bjw

RECORDED & INDEXED 112

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p. 18 6 1 JUN 14 1944

Detroit, Michigan
[illegible] 12, [illegible]

22870

PERSONAL
AND
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: JOHN BANNERMAN, et al;
ROY FITCOCK - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING; MURDER ON
THE HIGH SEAS.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Declassification
DATE 2/1/78 [illegible]

Dear Sir

During the interview with DAYTON DEAN regarding instant case, DEAN persisted in furnishing all information he could with reference to Black Legion activities along other lines, and in the course of the questioning advised that HEINRICH A. PICKERT, Commissioner of Police, Detroit, Michigan, was taken into the Black Legion and the oath administered to him by Colonel ROY HEFNER.

DEAN stated that PICKERT was seen at meetings by him, and that after the various hearings in regard to prosecutions for murders committed by members of the Legion, several Inspectors in the Detroit Police Department were raised to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, due to their knowledge of PICKERT's relationship with the Legion.

DEAN also advised that the following individuals were members of the Black Legion in this district, to his knowledge:

L. EUGENE SHARP, Judge of Common Pleas Court, Detroit, Michigan
DONALD S. LEONARD, Captain, Michigan State Police, Detroit, Michigan
PHILIP BREITMEYER, former candidate for Mayor in Detroit
HARRY TOY, recent candidate for Governor in Michigan
FRANK D. FITZGERALD, Governor-elect of Michigan

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CLASSIFIED BY 2909
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JOHN GILLESPIE, well-known politician,
Detroit, Michigan
DUNCAN McCREA, Wayne County Prosecutor,
Detroit, Michigan
IRA ALBRECHT, politician, Detroit,
Michigan

DAYTON DEAN stated that he was certain all of the above-named individuals were members of the Black Legion in 1936. He advised that he had seen DUNCAN McCREA at a Black Legion meeting which took place in a farmer's field one and one-half miles north of Oxford, Michigan; that McCREA took the oath of the Black Legion before IRA ALBRECHT; and that ALBRECHT was taken into the Legion at a meeting held in a field near John R and Eighteen or Nineteen Mile Road, at which meeting he (Dean) also was present.

During the questioning, DEAN appeared to have no ill feeling toward anyone except the members of the Legion who caused him to become a member and to get into his present predicament. He stated that he did not blame any of these men individually, but that he held his grievance particularly against BERT EFFINGER, who sent out the men to organize the Michigan District.

It will be noted from the report submitted in this case that EFFINGER resides at Lima, Ohio, and is reported to have been at the head of the Black Legion in the area covering the northeastern part of the United States from Illinois to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is apparent from the investigation conducted to date by Special Agent H. A. Loughran of this office that, in all probability, the only persons who definitely know of the place where ROY PITCOCK was murdered are the members of the party along at the time.

In accordance with Bureau letter dated August 12, 1938, the leads set forth in the report of Special Agent H. A. Loughran, dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, will be covered in the near future, unless otherwise advised by the Bureau.

Very truly yours

HAL:
VK/wra

John S. Bugas
Special Agent in Charge

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: June 30, 1942

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: JOSEPH B. EMMONS
GLENN E. WEBB

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Pursuant to your telephonic instructions to Special Agent R. W. Lawrence last evening, there is attached a memorandum containing a summary of information concerning Joseph B. Emmons and Glenn E. Webb. This memorandum contains information in the Bureau files and that contained in the files of the Cleveland Field Division, as well as that furnished by the Resident Agent covering Lima, Ohio, based upon his personal knowledge of the situation in Lima.

In connection with your request for photostatic copies of previous correspondence between you and Congressman Robert Jones in 1937 concerning Virgil E. Effinger, allegedly head of the Black Legion in Lima, Ohio, these copies are being prepared and will be furnished to you under a separate memorandum.

ATTACHED.

Director's Notation.
Mr. Ladd's Tickler
Copies furnished Congressman Jones.

R.L.P.E.S
Attachment

RECORDED & INDEXED

INDEXED

DATE: 3/16/91

16

ENCLOSURE

June 30, 1947

JOSEPH B. EMMONS
GLENN E. WEBB

By teletype dated June 30, 1947, the Cleveland Field Division furnished the following information, part of which appeared in their files and part of which was furnished as personal knowledge of the Resident Agent covering Lima, Ohio:

Joseph B. Emmons presently resides at 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio. He was formerly married to Jean W. Emmons, but is presently divorced. He is a native of Lima and was previously employed by the Gro-Cord Rubber Company in Lima prior to becoming an organizer in the CIO labor field. He is presently Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Council-CIO with headquarters at 112 East Elm Street. Emmons returned to Lima about 1944 after having served a considerable period of time in the United Rubber Workers of America-CIO in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio, areas.

Glenn E. Webb is a native of Lima and presently resides at 510 Jefferson Street, Lima. He was previously married to Ellen G. Webb and has at least two children as a result of this marriage. However, he was divorced during the past year and is presently married to Maxine Hempken, a girl some twenty years his junior. Webb was employed for a number of years as inspector in the Westinghouse Electrical Plant in Lima. He recently became a member of the Executive Board of Local 724, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America-CIO and has served as President of the Lima local.

The indices of the Cleveland Office failed to reflect any Communist activity on the part of either Emmons or Webb. However, sources of information available to the Cleveland Office advise that both Webb and Emmons have been termed by some Lima citizens as "fellow travelers" based on their stand on labor and racial matters.

The Cleveland Office further advised that according to recent newspaper articles, columnist Drew Pearson in testifying before the Senate Interstate Commerce Sub-Committee alleged that he had certain documents proving that Congressman Robert F. Jones, Ohio Republican Representative in Congress from the 4th Congressional District, Lima, Ohio, was a member of the Black Legion, which was a "disgruntled branch of the KKK" and operated in Ohio in 1935. The Black Legion allegedly was organized and administered by Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger.

Effinger, an electrical contractor, presently resides at 1114 Harrison Avenue, Lima. In the middle 30's he was arrested in Lima and extradited to

COPIES DESTROYED
24 NOV 1950

ENCLOSURE

Detroit, Michigan, to stand trial on charges of murder allegedly committed along with other acts of violence by the Black Legion. Numerous influential citizens and public officials including the present Mayor, Chief of Police and Sheriff of Allen County, all from Lima, and others in the surrounding territory are alleged to have been members of the organization. Congressman Jones, who was Prosecuting Attorney for Allen County at that time, was allegedly vigorous in his activity in making Effinger available for extradition.

Drew Pearson allegedly has an affidavit from Effinger alleging that Jones was inducted into and took the oath in the Black Legion under his, Effinger's, direction. Effinger, according to a recent article in the "Lima News", a local newspaper, refuted Pearson's claim.

Pearson also allegedly has an affidavit of Glenn E. Webb which he obtained through the efforts of Joseph B. Emmons which alleges that Webb made Jones a member of the Black Legion at a different meeting, time and place than that alleged in Effinger's affidavit.

Emmons and Webb are regarded in Lima as being antagonistic toward Jones possibly as a result of Jones' reported anti-labor record in Congress. Both individuals have actively denounced Jones through local press and radio releases. According to Lima press information, there is possible doubt as to the validity of Webb's affidavit inasmuch as no previous indication of Webb's affiliation with the Black Legion has been reported. Another press informant of the Cleveland Office has stated that he expects to be able to advise that office soon if Webb was known by Effinger as a member of the Black Legion and whether Webb could have been in a position to induct Congressman Jones into the secret organization as alleged in the affidavit.

Sources available to the Cleveland Office advise that the present charges against Jones by the above-mentioned labor leaders have not heretofore been brought against him during Jones' political career. In Lima certain locals of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural-CIO have withdrawn from the national organization, alleging Communist domination. Emmons in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Council, in order to combat these dissident elements, has obtained the legal services of a Lima attorney, one Elmer McClain, known to the Cleveland Office as Executive Secretary, Agricultural Committee, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Lima, Ohio.

On April 3, 1944, Jacob Kroll, Director, National Political Action Committee, 248 Railway Clerks Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, addressed a letter to Emmons in which he pointed out that the committees should call on their Congressmen and Senators urging them to extend the OPA without bans on subsidies, freezing wages or crippling amendments of any kind, as reflected by a review of the Bureau files.

The files further reflect that on May 12, 1944, Emmons addressed a letter to Kroll in which he discussed the nominations in local politics and discussed purely union activities.

On June 2 and June 13, 1944, letters were written by Joe Emmons as Field Representative, CIO Political Action Committee, Region V, United Rubber Workers of America-CIO, Akron, Ohio, to all rubber locals in Region V, exhorting the members of those locals to work toward the reelection of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

On June 29, 1944, Joseph Emmons as Field Representative of the Political Action Committee addressed a letter to S. H. Dalrymple, General President, United Rubber Workers of America, 503 United Building, Akron, Ohio, concerning the political action of Local 85, URWA, at Lima, Ohio, and pointing out that the full and active participation of that local in political action was needed as "this city is within the 4th Congressional District--one of the most reactionary in the State."

On July 5, 1944, Emmons wrote a letter as Field Representative of the CIO Political Action Committee to Jack Kroll, concerning the delinquencies of some of the local organizations and his actions to overcome these delinquencies.

The Bureau files further reflect that Joe Emmons, 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio-URWA was listed in July, 1944, as union representative working in Region V on political action work.

The Bureau files also reflect that Joseph B. Emmons was employed as an organizer by Local 22, United Tobacco Workers Union-CIO, Winston Salem, North Carolina, during September, 1944. This union was active in the Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston Salem.

The files further reflect that at Lima, Ohio, the Offical Annual Labor Directory-CIO disclosed Joseph B. Emmons, 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio, Local 85, URWA, was Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Union Council in March, 1946.

The only references in Bureau files concerning Glenn E. Webb indicate that the "UE News" of May 5, 1945, listed Glen E. Webb as President of Local 724 and "UE News" of May 9, 1946, listed the same information. A notation was made, however, that no Communist infiltration within this local has been reported. One "Glen Webb, Lima, Ohio, present FERA" (Federal Emergency Relief Association) "paymaster," is named in a list of officers and members of the Black Legion which was furnished by Messrs. Carter, Pratt, Urfer and Scheid. These individuals were allegedly former members of the Black Legion and were interviewed by Bureau Agents in connection with the investigation of the Black Legion in 1935.

RCH:BG June 4, 1936.

~~62-39790-5~~

62-29893-1X

Mr. J. W. Hamilton,
815 Fuller Avenue,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated May 30, 1936, inclosing copies of the editorials entitled "Paroles and Gangsters" and "The Black Legion," which appeared in recent issues of the St. Paul Pioneer Press. I read these editorials with a great deal of interest and want to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness in calling them to my attention.

I also want to thank you for your interest in suggesting that cartoons be widely exhibited visualizing the phrase, "Yellow Rats," as pertaining to criminals, as a step in crime prevention. I am indeed interested in this suggestion and shall give it consideration.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 5 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

815 Fuller Ave, St.Paul, Minn.

May 30, 1936.

Mr.J.Edgar Hoover,

Department of Justice,

Washington.

Dear Mr.Hoover:

I am sure you will be glad to read this editorial from the Pioneer Press of this week, though doubtless you have a clipping service.

Will you permit me a suggestion? You have coined the phrase, "Yellow rats" to designate our criminals. Why not do something to visualize your phrase and thus bring it home to school boys and school girls of the nation and to the adults as well?

Have our best men draft a cartoon to bring this phrase home to all. Portray a slinking rat with the information that rats destroy one billion dollars worth yearly, followed by the words, "We cannot help it". Then portray a two legged rat who destroys fifteen billion yearly, and the words, "We can help it", or must be made to help it.

This might even be painted in colors, taking care to give the two legged rat a yellow motif in the coloring.

Place these when reproduced in schools, and Sunday schools and anywhere that people congregate, stations, buss depots.

Would it not sink in, that phrase of yours, and be copied all over the world?

I cannot help thinking about all this, and this is about all I can do to help your splendid work.

Faithfully yours,

E. W. Hammeter

ack. 6-4-36 REX

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 20 1936

62-29893-1X

~~62-44369-1~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936 P.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON

St. Paul Pioneer Press 5/29

# PAROLES AND GANGSTERS.

Between J. Edgar Hoover's criticism of parole systems and the National Probation Association's defense of them there is no real conflict. Both are correct.

A large number of the criminals with whom the G-men deal have at one time or another been released *from prison on parole.* Mr. Hoover has given dramatic point to this fact by showing that every one of his men who has been killed on duty was shot by a paroled convict. In short, the gangster or professional criminal is almost without exception a public enemy who is and can be of no use to society, who never should be released, and who gets his parole either through corruption of officials, politics or just plain stupidity. Mr. Hoover is absolutely correct in his belief that parole and the professional criminal cannot be made to mix *without evil results.*

Where the parole system fails it is usually for good reason. *In the first place,* it is frequently regarded as a form of clemency, whereas it is really a method of prolonging social control over the majority of offenders who are redeemable and potentially good citizens. Secondly, adequate parole personnel and machinery are often lacking.

Only fourteen states have created agencies to deal specifically with parole—many states delegate parole to the governor or board of pardons. Only five states and the Federal government have full-time salaried parole boards. Only eight states, including Minnesota, have substantial numbers of field agents working under central supervision; a majority of the states have fewer than [illegible]ents or none at all.

[illegible] circumstances the adminis- [illegible] many states becomes a [illegible] such misconceptions [illegible] that the G-men [illegible] of hardened [illegible] the

But where parole is intelligently organized and administered, the mistakes are few, and those that occur are offset by far by the social benefits of its wise use for the large majority of prisoners. A prisoner is selected for parole not to diminish his sentence but because he is judged fit for a better form of custody. Instead of being held within a *prison, he is held under control and supervision as a returned member to society. It is a continuation of the ultimate purpose* behind prison policy, the reconstruction of a human being, and under circumstances which contribute most surely for the success of the policy.

But an inadequate parole system is worse than none at all, and amounts to a breakdown in social defense against crime. Selection must be wise and supervision thorough. When parole selects habitual criminals, or when it allows paroled prisoners to go free, it becomes a menace. For the class of criminals of whom Mr. Hoover speaks the only sensible prison policy is to put them under lock and key and keep them there.

The Probation Association is talking about *successful parole systems and* Mr. Hoover about the unsuccessful ones. For each there is a reason.

8

# St. Paul Pioneer Press

An Independent Newspaper

LEO E. OWENS, President and Publisher.

WILLIAM F. JOHNS, General Manager.
ROY J. DUNLAP, Managing Editor.
HERBERT LEFKOVITZ, Editorial Director.

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and Branch Offices
WASHINGTON—625 Albee Building.
DETROIT—11-246 General Motors Building.
NEW YORK—270 Madison Ave. and 63 Park Row.
CHICAGO—1308 Peoples Gas Building.
LOS ANGELES—Garfield Building 403 W. 8th St.
SAN FRANCISCO—627 Russ Building.
BOSTON—Transcript Building.
Current files of the Pioneer Press and Dispatch are maintained at these offices.

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ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily only—In Minn., Wis., No. Dak., So. Dak. and Iowa. | $5.00 | $3.00 | $1.50 | $.50 |
| Daily only—In all other states | $6.00 | $4.00 | $2.00 | $.70 |
| Sunday— To all points in the U. S. | $3.00 | $2.00 | $1.00 | $.40 |


## The Black Legion.

The fantastic secret society called the Black Legion whose existence has been brought to light by the Poole murder is evidently a revival in new form of the Ku Klux Klan of ten years ago. That earlier organization went aground on the rocks of common sense, public ridicule of its love for mystery and silly trappings, and the racketeering proclivities of its leaders. In the abracadabra of infantile ritual and its creed of prejudice and violence, the Black Legion is quite similar to the Klan, and it does not strain credulity too much to believe, as its now exposed leaders say, that a sufficient number of deluded people have been found, the Kluxers of the past and others, to build up an organization of some extent.

But their claim of a membership of six million is so extravagant as to defy all belief. There never was and never will be a secret society of six million members. The two are a contradiction in terms. Were there such an organization, it would have been heard from long before this. At the height of its post-war revival the Klan had 2,000 [illegible] organizations and only a fraction of [illegible] claimed out of a clear sky [illegible] ion.

[illegible] mysterious than the Black [illegible] any number of persons [illegible] be persuaded that under[illegible] ance and prejudice can be inspired by a sincere Americanism, of which they are the negation. Honest men cannot know what they are doing when they lend themselves to purposes which do not dare face the light of day.

## Double Week End Traffic.

With Memorial Day falling on Saturday, there will be a doubled holiday at the end of this week. The prospect is that the exodus from the city will be more than doubled by the opportunity for a trip instead of just a Sunday afternoon pleasure ride. In consequence, traffic on highways radiating from St. Paul will be tremendously increased and the hazard for both motorists and pedestrians will reach maximum on Sunday afternoon when the departures of the two days will be united in one great traffic stream hurrying back to the city.

In view of this condition, Superintendent Wettergren of the Traffic Squad sensibly suggests that motorists wishing to avoid the dangers due to congested highways start their return trips earlier than usual. This will tend to reduce the jam that steadily increases in density after mid-afternoon and becomes especially hazardous at nightfall. An ordinary week end averages twice as

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Toleon
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kolch
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Sandy

65-20893-1X

BOARD FORM NO. 84

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6-23-44

FROM : SAC, San Francisco, California

SUBJECT: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MATTERS - RESEARCH

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated March 10, 1944 making reference to an item appearing in the "Redwood Journal" of February 14, 1944 captioned "Juveniles in Outbreaks of Major Proportions; Damage Considerable." The article indicates that a tide of juvenile vandalism had the police department about submerged during the past week with the result that half a dozen youngsters were called in by Chief LAMPORT for questioning.

On June 14, 1944 Special Agent [redacted] of this office contacted Chief of Police LAMPORT at Ukiah, California, and ascertained the following information regarding the above-referred-to item:

On February 10, 1944 the Ukiah Police Department received a telephone call from a member of the Ukiah High School faculty to the effect that two youths had broken several windows in the Ukiah Grammar School and had soaped many of the windows at the school, having then gone to the home of the faculty member and maliciously damaged the hedges in front of his home and destroyed several expensive flower-pots which had been placed on the front porch. After this faculty member had called the first time, he again called the police department and informed them that he had received a telephone call from an individual, apparently a youth, who called him several vile names and then hung up.

The following evening this faculty member received a note, partly in writing and partly hand-printed, which was delivered under the front door of his home, in which he was again called vile names and threatened. This note was signed "The Black Legion." It was not available for examination, it having been destroyed, according to Chief LAMPORT.

In addition to the above episode, Chief LAMPORT advised that several windows in private homes had been broken by these boys, as well as the windows of many cars parked on the streets of Ukiah, California, having been soaped.

After conducting a preliminary investigation, Chief LAMPORT brought in for questioning [redacted] age 15, and [redacted] age 15, both students at the Ukiah High School, who admitted these offenses. When questioned by Chief LAMPORT, they could not give any reason for their activity, and when brought before the Juvenile Court, they were placed on probation for an indefinite period of time and ordered to pay for all damages they caused.

According to the Chief, both these boys come from good homes and have never been involved in any trouble before.

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40 JUL 5 1964

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 2

EX-14

54 JUL

Director, FBI, from SAC, San Francisco, California 6-23-44

Re: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MATTERS - RESEARCH

[redacted] resides with his mother and his stepfather, his own father being dead, and the family maintains a good reputation in the community.

[redacted] also comes from a good home and resides with his parents; however, LAMPORT advised that at one time the father drank heavily, although in the past few years he has improved in this connection to a great extent.

Because of the fact that Chief LAMPORT considers the activities of these boys to be juvenile "larks," no further effort was made to obtain more information concerning the family background.

Relative to the same item in the "Redwood Journal," Chief LAMPORT advised that on February 12, 1944 his office arrested [redacted] age 9; [redacted] age 9; and [redacted] age 10, for malicious mischief. At 6:15 pm on February 12, 1944 the above-named youths, all residents of Ukiah, California, broke ten large windows and all show cases and electrical fixtures in a gasoline station on the outskirts of Ukiah which had been closed for the duration. The damage caused by the boys was estimated at $165 by authorities.

When questioned, the boys were unable to give any reason for their actions and were not taken before the juvenile authorities, because of the fact that their parents agreed to pay the owner of the gasoline station which was damaged $165.

According to Chief LAMPORT [redacted] lives with his family at Ukiah, California, and has never been in trouble before. His family reportedly has a good reputation in the town.

[redacted] likewise comes from a good family, but [redacted] who resides with his mother, has been in trouble on prior occasions for malicious acts, and his mother possesses a poor reputation and drinks very heavily. She is employed in a restaurant and bar in Ukiah that caters to a low-grade trade and is on the streets late at night, so that the boy does not receive the proper home life.

Chief LAMPORT informed that he had just received notification from the United States Army that [redacted] brother [redacted] is a "straggler," being AWOL, and that the Army requested the Police Department to apprehend him should he appear in the vicinity of Ukiah, California.

JJB:emb

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

61-7560
KRM:TD

October 7, 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: William Dudley Pelley
and the Silver Shirts.

Reference is made to the memorandum for the Director in the above entitled matter dated September 25, 1936, in which it is shown that Roy Zachary not long ago approached one William Lohrer, of Seattle, Washington, with the intention of purchasing certain arms and ammunition for the Silver Shirts and the Silver Legion. The Daily Worker for September 24, 1936, carries a news item under Seattle, Washington date line for September 24th, alleging that the Fascists are arming for a pogrom on the Jews in this city. The item goes on to state that it has been revealed attempts have been made to purchase one hundred rifles, three hundred pistols and several thousand rounds of ammunition by a representative of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirts. The item states that Roy Zachary, Christian Party State Organizer, tried to purchase arms from William Lohrer's Sport Shop, 4316 University Way. It is also alleged that Zachary had a permit with the signature of Chief of Police William H. Sears and admitted that the guns were to be used by Pelley's private Fascist army in an immense pogrom being planned by the combined forces of the Black Legion, the James True Associates and the Silver Shirts.

The item states that Chief of Police Sears denied he had issued a permit and branded it a forgery. Sears stated "If Zachary has a permit bearing my name, it's a forgery. I have issued no pistol permit since I've been in office. I intend to investigate this affair thoroughly, and if he has a permit, I will prosecute him to the full extent of the law."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-28600-65

OCT 15 P.M.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 61-7560-1307-15

DE-INDEXED
DATE: 1-23-57
13

V 30, 1936

## Klan Joins War On Black Legion

LANTA, MAY 29—Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, declaring that his organization is "opposed to terrorism," today urged the Federal Government through the use of G-men, to stamp out the Black Legion, terroristic activities under investigation in Michigan.

RECORDED
INDEXED
62-23272-72
JUN 9 1936
JUN 5 1936

Thro the
ns. This
Dr. H.W. Evans has
made his brags that
the Klan always
cooperated punishments
Because - the Klan
officers came to
help enforce the
Law. all this is
in their secret papers
the good? Dr, would
proud to put the
pres into the
Klan terrorism or
thro-misleading information
The Klan, Black Legion, Gridley - Kans
and there is a "United Brotherhood"
church 3 1/2 miles west of Gridley - also
one 4 1/2 miles east & south of Gridley.
Detroit has nothing over Gridley.

M.E.K.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: Night Riders
Security Matters

File # 100-300300-1
Lab. # D 16114

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)

Date of reference communication: Let 4-22-44

Date received: 5-5-44

Examination requested: Doc. - Typ.

Result of Examination:

Examination by: E. Jones

Q2 searched NSF Lettering sets and ALF Rubber Stamps + Toy Typewriters. No ident. Searched Rubber Stamp File Typ. approx. 12 letters to inch. Capital letters 1/8" high. Small letters approx. 3/32" high.

Specimens submitted for examination.

Type. not suff. comparable for identification.

Type. found to be similar to type of rubber stamp sets mfg. by the following companies:

1. Louis Melind Co., San Fran. & Chicago. Catalogue of "Marking Devices" Rubber Stamp #2023 (News Gothic)

2. Irwin-Hodson Co., N.W. 15th to 16th Ave. at Kilisan Portland, Ore. Supplement T-83 #5148 Rubber Stamp.

3. Superior Type Co., Chicago, (Brands Hoehane) San Francisco - Wholesale Catalogue and Price Bulletin. Chicago Office:- 3940 Ravenswood Ave. "Veri-line Type" #8512 (8510 Upper case also)

4. Eagle Stamp Works, Chicago, 162 North Franklin St. Catalogue for Oct., 1936. #6107 Rubber Stamp

100-300300-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: Night Riders
Security Matters

File # 100-300300-1
Lab. # D-16114

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)

Date of reference communication: 4-22-44 Date received: 5-5-44

Examination requested:

Result of Examination: no latents Examination by: Haynes

Searched Q2 of 100-300300-1 in Rubber Stamps and Lettering sets of ALF and National [illegible] Code [illegible] Searched in [illegible] of A.L.F. no [illegible].

Specimens submitted for examination

Q2 - no watermarks
Opacity 0.96-0.9
length 7.5
Thickness 0.0035
Width 5.47-5.48
Weight [illegible]

Q5 [illegible] length 6.50-6.52
[illegible] 3.63 ~~3.66~~
Weight 3.3446 gr
Opacity 0.97-0.98
Thickness 0.0046-0.00

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

RECORDED:
5-6-44 9:30 AM

Re: NIGHT RIDERS
Security Matters

File # 100-300300-1
Lab. # D-16114 ED

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)

Date of reference communication: 4-22-44 Let

Date received: 5-5-44 vlr

Examination requested: Document - fingerprint

Result of Examination: no latents

Examination by: Rollins
LATENT

no ident N.S.F or G.S.F.
"Night Riders" checked in Bureau indices - used in anon. communications and appears in consistent to an organization of some type.

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 One window envelope.brg no postmark or return address.
Q2 One piece of white paper brg printing bgn "The Night Riders Ride Again!/...."

5/8/44

98-4114 use of "Night Riders" in an anon. postal card postmark Roswell, Miss. 5:30 P.M. June 4, 1941.

48-172 - refers to a band of night riding floggers operating in and around Brunswick, N.C.

9-15481 anon letter rec. by J. S. Loeffler Victim signed "Night Riders. (Greer, S. Carolina)

9-2242 - use of word "Night Riders"

62-18103 - "Night Rider Matter", Western District of Kentucky.

44-114 "Night Riders" organization West Virginia.

44-166 N.C. night Riders organization flogging incident Chief appointed vigilantes

61-7398

The Night Riders Ride Again!

☆☆☆☆

A few years ago, Bristol was hearing about A certain band called the

NIGHT RIDERS!

So Beware! for they ride again!

☆

LABORATORY
100-300300-1

100-300300-2

REPORT
of the

FBI
LABORATORY

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
# WASHINGTON D. C.

ELR:JC

May 22, 1944

To:

SAC, Philadelphia

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on May 5, 1944.

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re:

Night Riders
Security Matter

FBI FILE NO. 100-300300-1
LAB. FILE NO. D-16114 ED
YOUR FILE NO. 100-0

Examination requested by: Philadelphia

Reference: Letter 4-22-44

Examination requested: Document - fingerprint

Specimens:

Rollins

Q1 One window envelope bearing no postmark or return address.
Q2 One piece of white paper bearing printing beginning "The Night Riders Ride Again!.."

Result of Examination:

The printed material on Q2 was searched against material of a similar nature in the File of Writings pertaining to National Security and the Anonymous Letter File, but nothing of significance was noted. An appropriate copy of Q2 will be added to these files for future reference.

It is not possible to reach a definite conclusion as to the method or material used in placing the printed text on Q-2. However, a search in the Laboratory's rubber stamp

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Humphrey
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECEIVED 12
MAY 23 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Philadelphia (Enclosures)
Laboratory
File One

(continued next page)

reference file reflects that the style and design of the letters on Q2 are similar in style and design to comparable letters listed in rubber stamp catalogues of the following companies.

| STYLE NUMBER | COMPANY |
|---|---|
| 2023 (News Gothic type) | Louis Melind Company with offices located at San Francisco and Chicago. |
| 5148 | Irwin Hodson Company N.W. 15th to 16th Avenue at Glisan, Portland, Oregon. |
| 8510 Upper Case Letters (Vari-line type)<br>8512 Lower Case Letters (Vari-line type) | Superior Type Company with offices located at Chicago and San Francisco. |
| 6107 | Eagle Stamp Works, 162 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois. |

Inasmuch as the catalogues available of the companies listed above show only a limited number of the letters of the alphabet, it is not possible to state that all of the letters on Q2 conform in style and design to any of the above listed styles.

It is further pointed out that the letters on Q2 are also limited.

Q1 and Q2 were chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints, but none of value was developed.

Q1 is a plain white bond window envelope 6.50 inches in length and 3.63 inches in width.

Q2 is a plain sheet of white paper 7.50 inches in length and 5.47 inches in width. Specimens Q1 and Q2 bear no watermark.

The physical measurements of Q1 and Q2 have been taken and recorded in the Laboratory.

A check was made in the Bureau indices on the term "Night Riders" and it was reflected that several anonymous letters have come to the attention of the Bureau which have used this term. It is further noted that the term "Night Riders" has been given to certain organizations which have operated in such states as South Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. These organizations appear to have been



(continued next page)

self-appointed vigilante committees which have indulged in some instances in the beating of their victims.

This information is set forth in accordance with your request and is not intended in any way to indicate that a similar organization is responsible for the preparation of the printed text on Q2.

Specimens Q1 and Q2 are being retained in the files of the Laboratory. Photographic copies are being forwarded herewith.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

L-40
41372

Laboratory Work Sheet [illegible] 3:00 PM sl

RECORDED:
5-6-44 9:30 AM

Re: NIGHT RIDERS
Security Matters

File # 100-300300-1
Lab. # D-16114 ED
100-300300-1

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)

Date of reference communication: 4-22-44 Let

Date received: 5-5-44 vlr

Examination requested: Document - fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Rollins
LATENT
Knowles

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 One window envelope.brg no postmark or return address.
Q2 One piece of white paper brg printing bgn "The Night Riders Ride Again!!...."

Specimens examined. No visible for ridge detail.

Unsuccessful by Latent
PR 5-13-44

Iodine prints developed _____
Silver nitrate prints developed _____
____Identiscope negatives attached hereto

E. P. Coffey
Assistant Director
Laboratory

Per: _____

Room: 2629

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 22, 1944

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

SUBJECT: NIGHT RIDERS
SECURITY MATTER

D.16114

Dr. JULIUS SOBEL, an osteopath with offices and residence at 214 Jefferson Avenue, Bristol, Pennsylvania, personally delivered the enclosed note to this office and explained that the note was found on his doorstep at approximately 8:30 p.m. on April 16, 1944.

Dr. SOBEL was not suspicious of any persons who may have placed this note on his doorstep and advised that he could recall no disgruntled patients and no persons with German sympathies in his vicinity who may have placed the note at his door. He stated, however, that during 1943, he was president of the Jewish Synagogue in Bristol, Pennsylvania, and stated that in view of this fact, some German sympathizer may have left the note in order to frighten him.

There is no information in the indices of this office relative to "Night Riders."

Enclosed note is being forwarded to you for inclusion in the Anonymous Letter file or such other disposition that you deem advisable.

It is requested that this office be advised if any pertinent information is contained in the files of the Bureau relative to "The Night Riders."

ENCLOSURE

SLC:mjj
100-0

300300

F B I
APR 25 1944

INDEXED LAB. FILES

5 MAY

Federal Bureau of Investig

United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1887
Charlotte, North Carolina

February 23, 1937

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to Bureau letter of February 19, 1937, advising that on February 12, 1937, there appeared an article in the "New York Sun" to the effect that Federal Agents have been asked to investigate a band of night riding floggers and that Solicitor John J. Burney stated that evidence had been sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Charlotte, North Carolina, please be informed that John J. Burney is State Circuit Solicitor in Wilmington, North Carolina, and to date no information or communication has been received from Mr. Burney in the Charlotte Field Division or by any agent assigned here.

During my absence on February 12, 1937, there appeared an Associated Press dispatch in the Charlotte, North Carolina, "News," dated at Wilmington, North Carolina, February 12th, stating in effect the same as the item referred to in the "New York Sun" of the same date.

As you have been previously informed, these night rider activities and floggings have been current in several counties in Eastern North Carolina for the past eight or ten months. If any information is furnished the Charlotte Field Division pertaining to these activities, it will be immediately brought to the Bureau's attention and no action whatsoever will be taken by the Charlotte Division in the absence of specific Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

44 - 173-2

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

G. W. Lowdon,
Special Agent in Charge

GWL:VED
7-109

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
May 30, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir

On May 7, 1938, Captain [illegible] E. MAHON, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, called at this office, stating that he had just received information that members of the Black Legion who were responsible for the death of ROY PITCOCK in about September, 1936, had killed him while on a launch en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit River about two and one-half miles from the mainland of the United States. The launch, according to Captain MAHON, is registered at Wyandotte, Michigan.

Captain MAHON advised that it was his understanding that the Detroit River was considered the high seas as far as Federal jurisdiction is concerned, and that if this crime, as alleged, did occur as claimed, this would constitute a violation over which this Bureau would have jurisdiction. He stated that the crimes committed by members of the Black Legion were so ruthless that his organization was in hopes that we would be able to investigate the matter and if possible institute prosecution in Federal Court.

I informed Captain MAHON that this office had conducted no investigation whatever in connection with Black Legion activities, inasmuch as this had not been a matter coming within our jurisdiction. He stated that he had discussed the matter with Commissioner [illegible] of the Michigan State Police, and that if at all possible, they would like us to take up the matter and they would render every assistance possible. I gave him no hope whatever, but in answer to his request advised that I would let him know whether it would be possible for this Bureau to conduct any investigation.

Captain MAHON, who conducted extensive investigation in connection with Black Legion activities, stated that LAYTON [illegible], a member of the Black Legion, who was convicted in 1936 for killing [illegible] POOLE, which murder [illegible] admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve life imprisonment in the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan, had recently informed him that on the night he killed POOLE, he (LEAN) and other members of the Black Legion met

RECORDED IN 45-1133-1

INDEXED

~~80-1577~~

on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. At the same time he was detailed to kill POOLE, ARTHUR WELLMAN, JOHN VANDERMAN, JOHN VINCENT, THOMAS CRAIG and one LEE were detailed to kill ROY PITCOCK.

According to Captain MARMON, PITCOCK, who was a member of the Black Legion, had married a Catholic woman, and because he would not leave this woman after becoming a member of the Black Legion, the members of the Legion threatened him with bodily harm. As a matter of fact, on one occasion he was taken out of his home by members of the Legion and severely beaten, and at that time warned that he would be killed if he did not leave his wife.

Captain MARMON further advised that upon being detailed to kill PITCOCK, ARTHUR WELLMAN and the others mentioned went to his home and awaited his return. At that time, PITCOCK was out for an automobile ride with his brother and upon arriving home, WELLMAN and the others took him out of bed and carried him to a launch which they had docked at Wyandotte. At that time PITCOCK was dressed in night clothes and was not permitted to take any other personal effects with him.

En route to Fighting Island, WELLMAN and the others choked PITCOCK with a wire which they fastened around his neck, and he was dead before they took him out of the boat on to the island, where he was later found by Officer SCHWARTZ of the Wyandotte Police Department and other officers who investigated the case. When found, PITCOCK was hanging to a rafter in an old deserted shack on the island. Although the floor of the shack was covered with coal ashes, the victim's bare feet were clean, indicating that he had been carried into the place and then hung to the rafter.

Regarding the evidence which might be available to prove in part at least that PITCOCK had been killed on the launch while in the Detroit River, Captain MARMON stated that he felt sure that JOHN VINCENT, a member of the murder party, who is now about sixty-five years of age, would confess if confronted by LEAN. The latter also advanced this idea, and stated he would be willing to confront all of these men in the hope of getting them to confess this murder. WELLMAN, VINCENT, VANDERMAN, CRAIG and LEE, according to Captain MARMON, are serving terms of years in the Michigan State Prison at Jackson.

In an effort to ascertain the Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, a hypothetical case was presented to Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. BABCOCK, Detroit, Michigan, embodying the facts set forth herein. MR. BABCOCK stated that in his opinion there would be no doubt but what a person who had committed these acts would be guilty of kidnaping under the Federal Kidnaping Statute.

MR. BABCOCK further stated that off-hand he did not know the extent of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, and that it would be necessary for him to look up a considerable amount of law on that point. He further stated that it was rather difficult to look up law on supposititious cases, and would not give any definite opinion until he had looked up the cases on the point of jurisdiction on the Detroit River.

In view of the fact that the Bureau has conducted no investigation into the activities of the Black Legion, it was not deemed advisable to advise the United States Attorney's office of the facts given by Captain MARMON, inasmuch as publicity might cause.

The Bureau is, therefore, respectfully requested to advise this office in the premises, in order that Captain MARMON may be informed of the Bureau's position in this matter.

Very truly yours

Jay C. Newman
Special Agent in Charge

ELR:MRA
65-0

GHC:MBC
43-1133

June 16, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN

The Detroit, Michigan, division of this Bureau advises that Captain Ira M. Marmon, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, has furnished information to that office concerning the alleged murder of one Roy Pitcock on or about September, 1936, by members of the Black Legion. Information furnished by Captain Marmon indicates his informants have stated that Pitcock was killed on a launch while Dean was on the Detroit River, en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, the latter being Canadian property located on the Detroit River, about two and a half miles distant from the mainland of the United States. The launch, according to Captain Marmon, was registered at Wyandotte, Michigan.

Captain Marmon advised further that one Dayton Dean, a member of the Black Legion, who was convicted in 1936 for killing Charles A. Poole in connection with the activities of the Black Legion, being sentenced to serve life imprisonment in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan, recently informed him that on the night of Poole's death he, Dean, and other members of the Legion met on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, at which time Dean was detailed to kill Poole, and Arthur Fellman, John Tonnerman, John Vincent, Thomas Craig, and another party by the name of Lee were detailed to kill Roy Pitcock, the latter's death having allegedly been ordered because Pitcock refused to abandon his Catholic wife upon orders from the Black Legion, of which he was a member.

Dean furnished additional information, according to Captain Marmon, that the persons detailed to kill Pitcock upon the night in question went to Pitcock's home and there awaited his return, at which time they took him to a launch which they had previously docked at Wyandotte, Michigan, placing him in the launch and proceeding therein to Fighting Island; that, en route to Fighting Island, Fellman and the others mentioned above choked Pitcock with a wire they had fastened around his neck. According to Dean, Pitcock was dead when they removed him from the launch at Fighting Island, his body being subsequently found on the island by Officer Schwartz of the Wyandotte Police Department and other officers of that department who investigated the case. The body of Pitcock at the time of its discovery by the police was found hang-

MAILED
JUN 17 1938
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ing from the rafters of an old, deserted shack on the island and, although the floor of the shack was covered with coal ashes, the victim's bare feet were clean, indicating he had been carried into the place and then hung from the rafters.

With reference to the evidence which might be available to prove, in part, that Pitcock was killed on the launch while in the Detroit River, Captain Harmon has advised he feels sure one John Vincent, allegedly a member of the murder party and now about 65 years of age, would confess if he were confronted by Dean, who has stated he is willing to confront all of the alleged members of such murder party for the purpose of assisting in obtaining confessions from them. Bellman, Vincent, Vanderman, Craig, and Lee are all, according to Captain Harmon, now serving terms of years in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan.

Captain Harmon was advised by the Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Detroit office that this Bureau has conducted no investigation in connection with Black Legion activities, inasmuch as no evidence indicating federal violations within the Bureau's jurisdiction has previously been developed, and, while the Special Agent in Charge furnished no indication to Captain Harmon that this Bureau will conduct an investigation in connection with the above allegations, he did advise that officer that subsequent information will be furnished him as to whether the Bureau will conduct such an investigation.

In view of the fact that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation with regard to the activities of the Black Legion, it is requested that you advise concerning the wishes of the Department with regard to an inquiry in this matter. In this connection, it will be appreciated if you will furnish an opinion as to whether the above allegations, if true, would constitute a murder on the high seas, and whether these acts would come within the provisions of the Federal Kidnaping Statute.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JOSEPH B. KEENAN
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Department of Justice
## Washington

July 5, 1938

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to your memorandum of June 16 concerning the alleged murder of one, Ray Pitcock, on or about September, 1936, by members of the Black Legion.

It is suggested that this matter be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan and the Bureau be guided by his advice with reference to any further investigation.

Joseph B. Keenan
Joseph B. Keenan
The Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED 44-1133-2

GMD:JMK
43-1133-2

July 25, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated May 20, 1938, containing information furnished your Division by Captain Ira M. Barnum, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, to the effect that he has information indicating that certain members of the Black Legion who were responsible for the death of Ray Pitcock in about September, 1936, killed this party while on a launch en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit River.

Please be advised that the information contained in your letter has been presented to the Department for an opinion as to whether any investigation should be conducted therein by this Bureau, and the Department has advised by memorandum dated July 5, 1938, that this matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, whereupon this Bureau should be guided by the advice of the latter official with reference to any investigation.

You are accordingly instructed to discuss the facts of this matter with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, with regard to the opinion of that official as to whether or not a Federal violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau is involved. In this connection, it is requested that efforts be made to obtain from the United States Attorney a definite opinion as to what, if any, Federal violation is indicated in connection with the facts as originally furnished your office by Captain Barnum, and further that an effort be made to obtain from the United States Attorney the nature of the investigation desired in case such official indicates that investigation by Agents of your office is necessary.

The Bureau desires to be advised concerning the results of your interview with the United States Attorney with regard to this matter, and in the event he indicates that investigation is necessary, the Bureau should be advised concerning such fact as well as with regard to the nature of the contemplated investigation before any investigation whatever is undertaken by your Division.

Very truly yours,

JUL 25 1938

John Edgar Hoover
Director

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 2115
Detroit - Michigan
August 5, 1938

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated July 25, 1938, (Bureau file 45-1133) in which it is instructed that the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, be furnished with the facts concerning the alleged murder of [illegible] about September 1936 while enroute from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit River.

The information furnished this division by Captain [illegible] MARSON, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, which was set forth in my letter to you dated May 20, 1938, was thoroughly discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. BABCOCK who was Acting United States Attorney in the absence of Mr. JOHN C. LEHR, United States Attorney. Special Agent E. L. RICHMOND had this discussion with Mr. BABCOCK.

Mr. BABCOCK stated that, from these facts, it was his opinion that an investigation should be conducted by this Bureau to establish a violation of the kidnaping act and to establish a violation of murder on the high seas. In this discussion Mr. BABCOCK stated that Title 18, Section 553 of the United States Code states that the place of injury is deemed to be the place of murder and that, from the facts, apparently the injury was committed [illegible] the launch enroute to Fighting Island in the Detroit River. Mr. BABCOCK stated, therefore, that the murder took place on the Detroit River. Mr. BABCOCK stated that before any intensive investigation is conducted, it is the desire of the United States Attorney's office that the jurisdiction of the United States be established and, secondly, that [illegible] give a written statement concerning the information which he furnished Captain MARSON to an agent of this Bureau. Mr. BABCOCK stated that when the jurisdiction has been established and a statement has been procured, he would authorize a prosecution, not only for violation of the federal kidnaping but for murder on the high seas.

[illegible] - 3

[illegible]

In discussing the violation of the kidnaping act, it was pointed out that, since the information by [illegible] indicated that when DEAN arrived at the island, he was dead, there might be a question as to whether the kidnaping act would apply since FITCOCK may have been dead at the time the international boundary line was crossed. Mr. BABCOCK stated that there would be a technical point there as to whether the transportation of a dead body across the international boundary line would constitute the transportation of an individual, as mentioned in the kidnaping act. However, Mr. BABCOCK stated that he believed that the indictment should be in two counts, one charging murder and the other charging kidnaping and the question of whether such an act was a violation of the kidnaping act would be one for the judge to instruct the jury.

Consequently, Mr. BABCOCK desires the following investigation to be conducted:

(1) Establish the jurisdiction of the United States in this case, either -

(a) That the launch upon which FITCOCK was alleged to have been killed at the time the injury was inflicted was within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States and out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan, and that the launch belonged to a citizen of the United States, or whole or in part to the United States, or to any corporation created by or under the laws of the United States, or any State, territory or district thereof; or

(b) That the launch was registered, licensed or enrolled under the laws of the United States.

(2) Agents of this Bureau obtain a statement from [illegible] DEAN, containing the information furnished by [illegible] WARREN regarding the murder.

It will be noted that the jurisdiction of the United States can be established either under (a) or (b) of point one. In attempting to establish that the launch was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan at the time the injury was in-

flisted, it will, of course, be necessary to obtain any agreements that may exist as to the jurisdiction on the Detroit River. In the event it can be established that the launch was enrolled under, registered or licensed under the laws of the United States, Mr. BABCOCK advised that it will not be necessary to establish that the launch at the time the injury was inflicted was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan although it must be shown that at the time the injury was inflicted, the launch was on a voyage on the Detroit River.

In accordance with the letter of reference, the information is being furnished the Bureau concerning the discussion had with Mr. BABCOCK, and no investigation is being conducted at this time pending advice from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas

JOHN S. BUGAS
Special Agent in Charge

WLH:JWC
45-40

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

PAM:LL
45-1133

August 10, 1938

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On May 7, 1938, Captain Ira H. Marmon, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, informed the Detroit Field Division that Roy Pitcock was murdered by Arthur Wellman, John Vannerman, John Vincent, Thomas Craig, and one Lee, during September, 1936, on a motor launch, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island in the Detroit River, which is Canadian property. All of these individuals were members of the Black Legion at Detroit, Michigan. Captain Marmon obtained his information from Dayton Dean, also a member of the Black Legion, who is now serving a life sentence for the murder of Charles A. Poole, who was a member of the Black Legion. All of the above mentioned individuals are now serving time at the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan. Captain Marmon brought this case to the attention of the Detroit Field Division because of the fact that Pitcock was murdered outside the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan, and he was of the opinion that prosecution could be had in the Federal courts.

The above facts were submitted to Honorable Joseph B. Keenan, The Assistant to the Attorney General, by Bureau memorandum dated June 16, 1938, and in reply thereto by memorandum of July 5, 1938, he informed that the matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, and that the Bureau should be guided by his advice with reference to any further investigation.

The facts of the case were presented to Mr. John W. Babcock, Assistant United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, who is of the opinion that the facts set forth above possibly constitute a murder on the high seas and also a violation of the Kidnaping Statute. He requested the Detroit Field Division to conduct an investigation to ascertain the jurisdiction of the United States and also to obtain a statement from Dayton Dean containing the information that Dean furnished Captain Marmon.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 1938

In accordance with Bureau instructions, the Detroit Field Division is conducting no further investigation in this matter, pending advice from the Bureau. It will be recalled the Black Legion was investigated by the Detroit Police Department after information was obtained of several murders and assaults committed by this organization.

Respectfully,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. Foxworth

RECORDED

CONFIRM

65-1133 -3

August 12, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 5, 1938, concerning the alleged murder of Ray Pitcock about September, 1936, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River, and in which you outline the investigative procedure which is contemplated by your office as requested by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Babcock.

The Bureau desires that you conduct investigation as outlined in your letter for the purpose of determining whether there is any violation of a Federal statute involved in connection with the alleged murder of Ray Pitcock. In the event the United States Attorney determines from this investigation that there has been a violation of the Kidnaping Act or Murder on the High Seas, it is desired that a thorough investigation be made with a view of prosecuting the persons involved.

You should keep the Bureau promptly advised as to the progress of this investigation and as to any important developments.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted]
[redacted]

October 27, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 12, 1938, which referred to previous correspondence had with your Division concerning the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock about September 1936, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River. It is noted that you were requested in reference letter to conduct an appropriate investigation with regard to this matter in accordance with the previous request by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Babcock, Detroit, Michigan.

The Bureau's file with regard to the above matter fails to reflect the receipt of information from your office concerning this investigation to date, and it is desired that you advise immediately concerning the action taken by your Division in connection with the investigation of this matter. The Bureau desires that the necessary investigation with regard to this case be handled as promptly as possible, in order that same may be completed at the earliest possible date, and as you have been previously instructed the Bureau should be kept promptly and fully advised as to the results of the investigation in question.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

42 11-3-1

CEC:RD
49-1133

November 16, 1938

49-1133

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to previous correspondence had with you concerning the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock about September, 1936, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River, it being noted that you have been requested to conduct an appropriate investigation with regard to this matter in accordance with the previous request by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Babcock, Detroit, Michigan.

It is further noted that you were requested in Bureau letter dated October 27, 1938, to furnish prompt information concerning the action taken by your Division in connection with the investigation of this matter, no reply having been received from your office to date.

You have been previously informed that the Bureau desires the necessary investigation in this matter handled expeditiously in order that same may be completed at the earliest possible date, in which connection you were instructed to keep the Bureau promptly and fully advised with regard to all developments in connection with instant investigation.

In view of the above you are directed to furnish the Bureau with an appropriate report within ten days from the receipt of this letter, setting forth in detail the results of the investigation and all developments with regard to this matter to date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

CC-159

CHICAGO
49-1-33

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. DECEMBER 2, 1938

Transmit the following message to: DETROIT

URGENT; RAY PITCOCK, VICTIM; ROBBERY ON HIGH SEAS; KIDNAPING. SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY REPORT REQUESTED BUREAU LETTER DATED NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH.

HOOVER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 3 1938
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Per

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Detroit, Michigan
December 22, 1938

~~PERSONAL~~
~~AND~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: JOHN [illegible], et al;
ROY ITTOCK - VICTIM;
[illegible]
[illegible]

Dear Sir

During the interview with LAYTON [illegible] regarding instant case, [illegible] persisted in furnishing all information he could with reference to Black Legion activities along other lines, and in the course of the questioning advised that [illegible] M. [illegible], Commissioner of Police, Detroit, Michigan, was taken into the Black Legion and the oath administered to him by Colonel ROY [illegible].

[illegible] stated that [illegible] was seen at meetings by him, and that after the various hearings in regard to prosecutions for murders committed by members of the Legion, several Inspectors in the Detroit Police Department were raised to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, due to their knowledge of [illegible]'s relationship with the Legion.

[illegible] also advised that the following individuals were [illegible] of the Black Legion in this district, to his knowledge:

L. [illegible], Judge of Common Pleas Court, Detroit, Michigan
[illegible], Captain, Michigan State Police, Detroit, Michigan
[illegible], former candidate for Mayor in Detroit
[illegible], recent candidate for Governor in Michigan
[illegible], Governor-elect of Michigan

45

~~Personal and Confidential~~
Letter to Director from
SAC Detroit

December 12, 1938

4"-46

JOHN GILLETTE, well-known politician,
Detroit, Michigan
DUNCAN McCREA, Wayne County Prosecutor,
Detroit, Michigan
ERA ALBRIGHT, politician, Detroit,
Michigan'

WAYNE DEAN stated that he was certain all of the above-named individuals were members of the Black Legion in 1936. He advised that he had seen DUNCAN McCREA at a Black Legion meeting which took place in a farmer's field one and one-half miles north of Oxford, Michigan; that McCREA took the oath of the Black Legion before ERA ALBRIGHT; and that ALBRIGHT was taken into the Legion at a meeting held in a field near John R and Eighteen or Nineteen Mile road, at which meeting he (Dean) also was present.

During the questioning, DEAN appeared to have no ill feeling toward anyone except the members of the Legion who caused him to become a member and to get into his present predicament. He stated that he did not blame any of these men individually, but that he held his grievance particularly against [illegible], who sent out the men to organize the Michigan District.

It will be noted from the report submitted in this case that [illegible] resides at Lima, Ohio, and is reported to have been at the head of the Black Legion in the area covering the northeastern part of the United States from Illinois to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is apparent from the investigation conducted to date by Special Agent H. A. Loughran of this office that, in all probability, the only persons who definitely know of the place where [illegible] was murdered are the members of the party who [illegible] at the time.

In accordance with Bureau letter dated August 10, 1938, the [illegible] in the report of Special Agent H. A. Loughran, dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, will be covered in the near future, unless otherwise advised by the Bureau.

Very truly yours

John [illegible]

John [illegible] Hughes
Special Agent in Charge

[illegible]
WL:ers

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN — FILE NO. 46-46

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
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| DETROIT, MICHIGAN | 12/6/38 | 9/27 to 10/20; 11/2,3, 26,28,30 | H. A. LOUGHRAN |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| JOHN BANKERMAN; JOHN D. MITCHELL; THOMAS CRAIG; VIRGIL MORROW; ALBERT STEVENS; ROY PITCOCK - VICTIM | KIDNAPING; MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DAYTON DEAN, #40101, State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan, serving a life sentence for a Black Legion murder, in a signed statement implicates above Subjects in the kidnaping and murder of ROY PITCOCK on the night of May 12, 1936, when he was taken from his home in Wyandotte, Michigan, and subsequently was found dead on Fighting Island, in the Detroit River, on the Canadian side of the international boundary. Information received that subject was transported by boat and killed by strangulation enroute across Detroit River. Boat used and actual place of attack and death not as yet ascertained.

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REFERENCES:

Letter to the Bureau from the Detroit Office dated May 20, 1938.

Bureau letter to the Detroit Office dated July 25, 1938.

Letter to the Bureau from the Detroit Office dated August 8, 1938.

Bureau letter to the Detroit Office dated August 12, 1938.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: John S. Burger

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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DETAILS: From a memorandum in the file of instant case it was revealed that on May 7, 1938, IRA H. MARMON, Captain, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, called at the Detroit Bureau Office and stated that he had just received information that members of the Black Legion were responsible for the death of ROY PITCOCK, about September, 1936, and that he had been killed while on a launch enroute from Wyandotte, Michigan to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property located in the Detroit River about two and one-half miles from the mainland of the United States; that the launch was reported to have been registered at Wyandotte, Michigan, although the name thereof was not known.

Captain MARMON further stated that DAYTON DRAN, a member of the Black Legion convicted in 1936 for the killing of CHARLES A. POOLE, which murder DRAN had admitted and for which he was serving a life imprisonment sentence in the Michigan State Prison at Jackson, Michigan, and recently informed him that on the night he killed POOLE, he, DRAN, and other members of the Black Legion met on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, and at the same time that he was detailed to kill POOLE, ARTHUR WELLMAN, JOHN VANDERMAN, JOHN VINCENT, THOMAS CRAIG, and one LEE were detailed to kill ROY PITCOCK. PITCOCK was killed because he had refused to leave his wife and had been a member of the Black Legion, while his wife was a Catholic.

Captain MARMON further advised that upon being detailed to kill PITCOCK, WELLMAN and the others above mentioned, went to his home and awaited his return; that upon his arrival home they took him out of bed and carried him to a launch, which they had docked at Wyandotte; that he was dressed only in his night clothes and he was not permitted to take any other personal effects with him; that enroute to Fighting Island, on the boat, WELLMAN and the others choked PITCOCK with a wire, which they fastened around his neck, and he was dead before they took him out of the boat onto the island, where he was later found by Officer SCHWARTZ of the Wyandotte, Michigan Police Department and other Officers who investigated the case; that they found him hanging to a rafter in an old deserted shack on the island, and that although the floor of the shack was covered with coal ashes, the Victim's bare feet were clean, indicating that he had been carried into the place and then hung to the rafter. Captain MARMON felt sure that JOHN VINCENT reportedly a member of the murder party, now about sixty-five years of age, would confess to the murder, if confronted by DRAN. DRAN had also expressed this idea and stated that he would be willing to

confront all of these men in the hope of getting them to confess. All of the above were reported by Captain MARNON to be serving terms of years at the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan.

Under date of May 30, 1938, this office forwarded the above information to the Bureau, after JOHN W. BABCOCK, Assistant United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, had been consulted regarding a hypothetical case concerning Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River. MR. BABCOCK had advised that, in his opinion, there would be no doubt but that a person who had committed these acts would be guilty of kidnaping under the Federal Kidnaping Statute. MR. BABCOCK had advised that he did not know offhand the extent of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, and it would be necessary for him to look up a considerable amount of law on that question; that he would not look up the law until the definite facts on some particular case were presented to him. The Bureau was respectfully requested to advise this office in the premises.

Under date of July 25, 1938, the Bureau advised that the information received had been presented to the Department for an opinion as to whether any investigation should be conducted therein by this Bureau, and the Department had advised that the matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, and this office should be guided by his advice. The Bureau requested that the United States Attorney state a definite opinion as to what, if any, Federal violation was indicated in connection with the above facts. The Bureau also requested to be advised of whatever investigation was contemplated by this office prior to the undertaking thereof.

Under date of August 8, 1938, the Detroit Office advised the Bureau of an interview with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. BABCOCK, who was Acting United States Attorney in the absence of MR. JOHN C. LEDR, by Special Agent E. L. RICHMOND. MR. BABCOCK advised Special Agent RICHMOND that from the facts presented, it was his opinion that an investigation should be conducted by this Bureau to establish a violation of the Kidnaping Act and to establish a violation for Murder on the High Seas. He further stated that Title 18, Section 563, United States Code, states that the place of injury is deemed to be the place of murder, and that, from the facts, apparently the injury was committed while the launch was enroute to Fighting Island, in the Detroit River. Therefore, the murder took place on the Detroit River, and before any extensive investigation was conducted, it was the desire of the United States Attorney's office that the jurisdiction of the United

Status be first established, and secondly, that DAYTON DEAN give a written statement, concerning the information he had furnished Captain HARROW, to an Agent of this Bureau. MR. BABCOCK advised that if jurisdiction were established and a statement procured, he would authorize prosecution, not only for violation of the Federal Kidnaping Statute, but for Murder on the High Seas.

MR. BABCOCK stated that instant offense may not have been a violation of the Federal Kidnaping Statute, inasmuch as PITCOCK may have been dead at the time of the crossing of the international boundary line, and it would be a technical point as to whether the transportation of a dead body across the international boundary line would constitute the kidnaping of an individual. MR. BABCOCK stated that he believed that the indictment should be in two counts, one charging murder and the other charging kidnaping, and the question of whether such an act was a violation of the kidnaping act would be one for the judge to instruct the jury.

MR. BABCOCK requested that investigation be conducted to establish the jurisdiction of the United States in this case and to prove either:

(a) That the launch upon which PITCOCK was alleged to have been killed at the time the injury was inflicted was within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States and out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan, and that the launch belonged to a citizen of the United States, or whole or in part to the United States, or to any corporation created by or under the laws of the United States, or any State, territory or district thereof; or

(b) That the launch was registered, licensed or enrolled under the laws of the United States.

He also requested that Agents of this Bureau obtain from DAYTON DEAN a statement concerning the information furnished by Captain HARROW regarding the murder.

He further stated that in attempting to establish that the launch was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan at the time the injury was inflicted, it would be necessary to

obtain any agreements which may exist as to the jurisdiction on the Detroit River, but that in the event the launch was enrolled under, registered, or licensed under the laws of the United States, it would not be necessary to establish that the launch was outside of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan at the time of the injury, although it must be established that it was on a voyage on the Detroit River.

Under date of August 18, 1938 the Bureau requested that this office conduct investigation as outlined in the above letter regarding the alleged murder of ROY PITCOCK, and that if any violation were established in regard to either of the offenses that a thorough investigation be made with a view of prosecuting the persons involved.

[redacted], State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan, advised that DAYTON DEAN was serving a life sentence at that institution under number 40101. Through arrangements made with Warden NOEL MOORE, DAYTON DEAN was interviewed in a private office adjacent to the Warden's office, and after a discussion with him of the facts involved in instant case, he furnished the following signed statement, which is being made a part of the file of the Detroit Office:

"State Prison of Southern Mich,
Jackson, Michigan,
September 20, 1938

"I, Dayton Dean, state that I wish to make the following voluntary statement to H. A. Loughran, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Dept. of Justice, without any threats or promises of reward.

"About May 12, 1936, I was a member of the Black Legion in Detroit, Mich. On the above night I attended a group meeting called at the Masonic Temple at [illegible] & Waterman, Detroit, Mich. The men I recall being at this meeting were Harvey Davis, Colonel in the Legion; Jack Zimmerman, a Lieutenant Colonel; Lieutenant Colonel Blackball; Ervin Lee, his Adjutant; John Mitchell, Louis Wonsch, Albert Stevens, Virgil Marron, John Vincent, Thomas Greig, Edgar Galvin, Irving Gipp, [illegible] Johnson, Michael [illegible], [illegible] Pierce, three name not known, Paul Edwards, and a man they called the White or Red Russian (known to Police Department officials in Detroit, Mich.), and about 50 of the men in all, the names of the

others not being recalled to me except Oscar Whiteside. Of the above group Davis, Baldwin, Lee, Lipps, Johnson, Edwards and myself went out to Gulley Road. The others above named were supposed to have gone out with us as far as I know but Davis said when we got there that they must have got lost. At the Masonic Hall I saw a uniforms in the hall that had a 50 to 60 foot rope and some masks and robes but this was not taken by Davis or our crowd. Davis was in charge of our group. Emmerman was a Lieut. Colonel and was in charge of the group, above named, that failed to show up. About four hours later we met in front of the German Inn on Fort Street, West, Detroit, between Clark and Livernois - that is Emmerman's men (without Emmerman) met Davis and the group of us that had been with him. They had arrived before we had and had had a beer before we got there. Davis said to them if they had "got through all right" and Craig answered that they had. They asked Davis if he got through with his all right and he said he had. In the other group was Craig, Stevens, Borrow, and possibly Mitchell. They had apparently dropped off Emmerman as Davis had asked if Emmerman had taken care of things and he was told by Craig or Stevens that he had. I did not know what they were talking about at the time and when I saw the papers a few days later when they found the body of Pitcock on Fighting Island I recalled Davis having said they had a man down at Wyandotte that they had to take care of. He had been talking about getting ahold of the mayor of Ecorse, Mr. Voisine, that he had to take care of - that they had to be taken for a ride. I later read the article on Pitcock's murder in the True or Official Detective Magazine in January or February, 1937 which was an anonymous article - this article was written by someone who was a member of the Legion & coupled with what I had heard and seen I feel as though it is very authentic.

"The Legion was organized by the members like the United States Army and the information emanated from the higher officials so that when it came down the line it never went below the Captain - this was as to such things as murders that were to be done by the members and the members did not know what they were to do until they got to the place where the act was to be done. As I was a private at that time I did not have the information

what they had been ordered to do on May 18, 1936, but I had previously been on the staff of the State of Michigan for the Black Legion and had acted as a Major so that I am completely aware of what had happened in the past and how they operated. When our group headed for Calley Road on May 18, 1936, we went out there for the purpose of doing away with Charles Poole who was shot that night by our group. I have read the above 4 pages including this page and have Signed the other 3 pages as well as this page as the facts related above are true

/s/ Dayton J. Dean

Witnessed:

H. A. Loughrun, Special Agent /s/
FBI US Dept of Justice
911 Federal Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

Jack Coltson, Trooper /s/
Jackson Post, Michigan State Police

DEAN stated he was certain that ARTHUR KELLMAN had no connection with instant case and that he had never advised anyone that KELLMAN was so connected.

DEAN stated during the above interview that he did not realize what he was being called for and that he had considerably more information in notes he had made about the time of his trial, but these notes were in his room and if Agent could subsequently interview him, and also possibly interview FRED CULLEY, #38677, Jackson Prison, with whom he had talked a great deal regarding the Black Legion since his incarceration, he thought he might be able to add substantially to what he had already stated. However, in addition to the statement he furnished the following information:

That BERT KRYDER, whose true name he stated was EVARE F. KRYDER, and who resided at Lima, Ohio, was the head of the Black Legion in the Northeastern part of the United States, from Illinois to the Atlantic coast; that KRYDER was reported to work under one "DETOUR" SHEPHERD, reported as recently living somewhere in Pennsylvania; that SHEPHERD worked under the

and was who was at the head of the Black Legion in the entire United States, whose name was not known to DEAN or ever heard by him, but who is reported to live some place in the South. The Legion was divided into fourteen corps areas built upon the same plan as the United States Army. The original plan of the Black Legion was to get in as many influential men as possible and to obtain information involving any criminal activities on their part, to be used as a threat and held over their heads to control them, and when sufficiently organized to take over the Government of the United States. The original date set for the taking over of the Government was September 14, 1936.

DEAN stated that he recalled that BERT HYDICKER had addressed a local group of Black Legion members in the Detroit area, and that he told them that it had only taken thirty thousand Russians to overthrow the government of the Czar. DEAN advised that at the time of that talk he stated they had between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand members, although DEAN stated he believed that was the heighth of the membership of the organization, and that after all of the publicity in Detroit, its real purpose became known and its membership decreased. However, he stated he had received information that the Black Legion was at present reorganizing under different names such as The Free Speech, The Century Club, The Patriotic League of America, The [illegible] Owls, and The Wolverine Republican Club.

DEAN stated he was certain that during the short time the Legion operated in the State of Michigan the members committed between thirty and forty murders in the Detroit District. He mentioned the names of several prominent individuals as members of the Legion, stating that he had seen them at meetings and could definitely prove who had sworn them in. The names of such persons are being submitted under separate cover to the Bureau.

DEAN further stated that JACK HARVILL and CHARLIE MEHELIN of the Detroit, Michigan Police Department had a list of all the members of the Legion in Detroit; that they had worked on the case for a long time; and that he considered both of them as thoroughly reliable to interview.

In addition to the information furnished during the first interview, DEAN, upon reinterview, subsequently advised that he had recalled with the help of his records that on the night of the POOLE murder HAROLD LAMBERTS, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion in the Twelfth Regiment, and CHARLES KING, a major in

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the same regiment, WILBUR MORROW, a General in the Michigan area, JOHN VINCENT, OTTO KASCHELLA, an Adjutant under JOHN BLACKHAM, who had never been prosecuted, LOUIS [illegible], MICHAEL LATTUS, [illegible] [illegible], and JAMES BLACKHAM had also been at the above referred to meeting; that subsequently in the January or February, 1937 issues of the True Detective Magazine there had been an article on the PITCOCK murder by an anonymous writer and whoever wrote this article had to be one of the parties that was present at the time PITCOCK was murdered; that I, DEAN, felt quite certain that OTTO KASCHELLA wrote this article. He believed that out of the above group, including the Subjects already enumerated, that ALBERT STEVENS or VIRGIL MORROW would be the two easiest men to break and obtain a confession from.

DEAN stated that JOE [illegible], a detective on the Ecorse, Michigan Police Department, who had been taken into the Black Legion through machine gun tactics, had always detested the Legion, and that he would probably be a reliable informant to ascertain who owned the launch that was used in instant murder; that he also had a list of all the members of the Black Legion in Ecorse and Wyandotte, Michigan.

DEAN stated that he was quite certain that the boat used for the trip to Fighting Island belonged to a member of the Black Legion. He further stated that he had recalled since his first interview that one of the men in the party on the way out to Culley Road had made the remark, "The boys down there will take care of the matter"; that after he had heard of the body of PITCOCK being found he immediately connected this remark up with the case, as there had been some previous conversation which fit in, but which he could not recall.

Regarding [redacted] of the Wyandotte, Michigan Police Department, DEAN stated he might be reliable, although his partner, with whom he was almost constantly with, was a member of the Black Legion as was [illegible], also on the Police Department. DEAN further recalled that on the way out from Magnais Hall he heard LEE and DAVIS remark that they had thought they should get JOHN MITCHELL out on one of the jobs so that they would have something on him if he were elected to the office he was running for, and DEAN believed that MITCHELL probably drove the car that [illegible] and [illegible] rode in on the way out to PITCOCK'S house. However, as the two parties did not leave together, DEAN was unable to recall why he had this recollection.

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DAYTON DEAN and FRED GURLEY, above-mentioned, were interviewed together subsequently, and GURLEY advised that he resided at 4404 First Street, Ecorse, Michigan; that he expected to be paroled about November 1, 1938; and that DEAN and himself had agreed to do all that they could to break up the Black Legion, as they both felt they had been definitely framed and were made the goats in the case. He stated that he joined the Legion with an automatic revolver stuck in his back by one of the Legion members, and was told to take the oath or he would be shot; that he had kept in touch with Mayor VOESINK of Ecorse, Michigan in regard to everything he did in the Legion; and that he continued to follow out orders received as a result of Mayor VOESINK'S suggestion that he do so and keep him informed. He stated that when he went out the night that he accompanied the crowd, upon which his case was based and upon which he was convicted and sent to the State Penitentiary, he had called Mayor VOESINK prior to going, and that he was convicted subsequently because somebody found out about his contacts with VOESINK and pushed the prosecution against him; that the members of the Black Legion were stronger than Mayor VOESINK and as a result he was convicted. He stated that after his release from the Penitentiary he would do anything he could to help the Bureau in the solution of instant case if he were called upon to do so; and that he did not care for any remuneration as a result of anything he was able to accomplish.

He stated as a preliminary history to the Legion that HAROLD LAWRENCE, a Major in the Black Legion, was the organizer at Wyandotte and Ecorse, Michigan; that prior to the time that LAWRENCE was the organizer, one CHARLES KING, a leader in the organizational work had been in charge around that district; and that KING was in charge of organization at the time of the PITCOCK murder. He advised that it is his impression that both men were probably in on this, although it will be noted that GURLEY was not at the Masonic Hall on the night of the meeting related by DEAN, so that his accusation would only be inferential. ED DOUGHTY, a Black Legion member formerly residing in Wyandotte, Michigan, who is now reported to be in Pontiac, Michigan, was also believed to have been along with the murder party in instant case.

FRED GURLEY stated that there were at least twenty to twenty-five docks where boats were kept on the waterfront at Wyandotte and Ecorse, Michigan and he had no idea whose boat was used on the occasion of the murder.

He further advised that one HAZEL BRANCH, who had

been employed by the Wyandotte Oil and Fat Company, Wyandotte, Michigan, and who was employed there at the same time as was GULLEY, was assigned to the manufacture of a gas of a highly explosive nature developed from the soybean oil; and that this man was thoroughly familiar with the explosive nature of the gas and also with the fact that a slight amount of heat was all that was necessary to set it off. He stated that this party was working about sixty feet above the floor level at the above company, as he recalled, along in February, 1936; that an explosion occurred where he was working and he landed about six feet from GULLEY on the floor below. He was reported to have put a blow torch to the pipes where the explosive gas was carried in order to thaw out a solidified mass. GULLEY stated he was absolutely certain that BRANCH never would have committed an act of this kind, and that his death was caused by a deliberate explosion of some nature executed by members of the Black Legion, who were very active in the plant, and that BRANCH was actually killed because he had been taken in on the proposed murder of ROY PITCOCK and had threatened to talk. GULLEY further stated he was quite certain that several members of the Black Legion around Wyandotte and Ecorse, Michigan, had beats.

Captain IRA H. WINROW, Detective Bureau, Michigan State Police, was subsequently interviewed at the Detroit Bureau Office and advised that MRS. ROY PITCOCK had been a housekeeper for a Captain on the Detroit, Michigan Police Department; [redacted] until she met ROY PITCOCK. She told him of her past history and he accepted her and married her. The Black Legion, of which PITCOCK was a member subsequently found out about MRS. PITCOCK'S derogatory past life and told PITCOCK that he would have to leave his wife. He refused and the members of the Legion took him out and beat welts on his back and released him, telling him that he would have to leave her, and threatening to kill him if he did not. Thereupon, after he persistently refused to do so, his body was found on Fighting Island.

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Captain [redacted] stated he believed the boat used in the murder was owned by a man who had fallen off a scaffolding in Wyandotte, Michigan, at the time of an explosion in the plant where he was working, and he believed this party had been along on the night of the PITCOCK murder. Captain WARNOK stated that PITCOCK's body was found by the Canadian Provincial Police and taken to the Canadian shore, so that any coroner's inquest would probably be found at Windsor, Ontario. He stated the [redacted] of the [redacted] Police Department was believed to have the name of the man who owned the boat used in the PITCOCK murder, and was believed to have other information of value, but he did not feel the [redacted] would cooperate, as his partner, [redacted] was a member of the Black Legion and [redacted] would probably be afraid to reveal the information he had.

Captain WARNOK was questioned as to whether DAYTON DEAN had advised him that ARTHUR WELLMAN was connected with instant case. He stated he was not certain as to whether DEAN had connected WELLMAN with this case, or with one of the other murders committed in the Michigan area. He suggested that Agent interview Detective Lieutenant WILLIAM WATKINS of the Michigan State Police, who worked on the case and was much more familiar with the facts than was he.

Lieutenant WILLIAM WATKINS, Detective Bureau, Michigan State Police, subsequently contacted the writer at the Detroit Bureau Office and stated he had never heard of ARTHUR WELLMAN being mixed up in the PITCOCK murder; that he believed that Captain WARNOK had become confused in regard to another murder at the time he furnished the original information. He stated further that in 1936 or about that time the Black Legion was responsible for the hanging on the Nine Mile Road, in Macomb County, of another individual, whose name he did not know. He did not know that DAYTON DEAN was present at this hanging. He stated that after the hanging a certain group of the members buried the individual; that DEAN should be questioned as to whom these latter members were, as he believed that they had a lot of information regarding the murder of ROY PITCOCK.

Lieutenant WATKINS further was under the impression that any member of the Police Department at Wyandotte, Michigan, would be of very little help in instant case; that he had attempted on several occasions to obtain information from practically all the members of the Police Department, including [redacted] and [redacted] regarding the murders in which the Black Legion was believed to

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to have been involved, but had never received any help of any kind. He stated that VINCENT FITZGERALD, the Prosecutor of Macomb County, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, had a vast amount of information regarding crimes committed by the Black Legion and that he would cooperate thoroughly with Agents of this Bureau. He stated he did not know, however, if FITZGERALD had any information regarding the PETCOCK murder. He stated that the Sheriff and every Deputy employed by him in Macomb County were members of the Black Legion, as was a man named TROMBLY, the Assistant Prosecutor under MR. FITZGERALD, but he felt that ART [illegible], Chief of Police at Mt. Clemens, Michigan, was probably reliable.

Lieutenant WATKINS further advised that ART BRANSTAWTER, a patrolman attached to the Fort Precinct located at Fort and Green Streets, Detroit, Michigan, was a graduate of the Michigan State Police School; that he believed he would cooperate with the Bureau in regard to instant case; and that he was acquainted with practically everyone in Wyandotte and Ecorse, Michigan. He further stated that one WALTER PIERCE, a former Sergeant on the Pontiac, Michigan Police Department, and also a former member of the Black Legion, admitted to him on one occasion that he had attended a hanging in Ohio. However, when WATKINS attempted to get this information from him before some other witnesses, he denied he had ever made the statement. He believes that PIERCE was a colonel in the Legion and that through that ranking would probably have information regarding the PETCOCK murder and as to who was detailed to it; that at the present time PIERCE was believed to be around Muskegon, Michigan; that he had "gotten religion" and belonged to some gospel church in that section. He thought that PIERCE should be located and questioned.

Lieutenant WATKINS further stated that there were a lot of high class men who were taken into the Legion, and who after joining it never had anything more to do with it. A few others, of what he considers a very high type, had also been taken into the Legion and taken to a few meetings by force before they realized that they had become involved in it. He further stated that members of the Black Legion were of two types: one of the lower mental class, who were required to take the oath of allegiance to the Legion involving the overthrow of the United States Government, and the higher type group, who were not to know the real purpose for which the Legion was organized. He stated he felt quite certain from information he had that even certain members of his own organization had been taken in, but that they had not known the real purpose of the organization, and had never attended any of the meetings. Lieutenant WATKINS stated that STANLEY FERGUSON, former Chief of Police of the Great Lakes

Steel Company, Monroe, Michigan, had a great deal of information regarding the Legion's activities in that neighborhood, and might have some information regarding the PITCOCK murder; that this man was presently not employed by the Great Lakes Steel Company and he did not know where he might be located. Another person he believed reliable was one FRANK [illegible], who resides at either Wyandotte, Trenton, or River Rouge, Michigan, and whose father was the former Chief of Police at Trenton. Lieutenant HAWKINS stated that this party might be cautious as to what information he furnished if interviewed by a stranger and if any trouble were had in getting him to talk about the Black Legion, arrangements should be made to have Lieutenant HAWKINS accompany the Agent on the next interview.

Lieutenant HAWKINS further advised that the Black Legion is being presently reorganized under various names, the only one of which he was personally acquainted with being, The Patriotic League of America; that in Michigan the man at the head of the organization was one RAY ERNST, reportedly located at Jackson, Michigan; and that he had admitted he was working under BERT KEPPINGER in Lima, Ohio.

Under date of October 3, 1938, the Blue Streak of The Detroit News carried a headline entitled: "Black Legion Sentences Killed. Court Grants Re-Trials for Nine of the Reputed Members Convicted Eighteen Months Ago for Plotting to Kill ARTHUR [illegible] MITCHELL, Highland Park Publisher". The nine men who were sentenced are ROY HEPNER, serving two to five years; ARTHUR F. LUPP, Senior, serving two to five years; ALVIS CLARK, serving two to five years; FRANK HOWARD, HOWARD KIPLING WILLIAM, M. RAY MARKLAND, WILLARD FOSTER, MATTHIAS JOHN, and HUBERT JAMES, all out on bond. The article stated that LUPP was the former head of the Black Legion in Michigan, and that MARKLAND was the former Mayor of Highland Park, Michigan.

[redacted] Police Department, were interviewed and advised from their records that BANNERMAN, MITCHELL, CRAIG, MORROW and STEVENS were all serving time in institutions in the State of Michigan; that BANNERMAN, CRAIG and STEVENS were serving time at the State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan; and that they believed that VIRGIL MORROW was serving time at the Detroit House of Correction. Their records showed that OTTO MITCHELL had resided at

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[illegible] Shaler Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, while active in the Black Legion in this State, but that after the trials of the other individuals he was believed to have returned to his home at Duluth, Minnesota, where he probably can be presently located. They further stated that CHARLES KING, Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion was reported to reside at 17 West Glenwood, Ecorse, Michigan.

The above Detectives advised that they had a list of all known members of the Black Legion in Ecorse and Wyandotte, Michigan, and furnished Agent with the following names, which made up this list:

The following are the members of the Black Legion at Ecorse, Michigan:

JAMES ALLEN, EARL ANGSTADT (#39044 State Prison, Jackson, Michigan), PHIL ALLISON, DON BECKMAN, 75 West Josephine, THOMAS COX, 38 Bell Street (at the State Prison, Jackson, Michigan), CHARLES COMPTON, 47 Salliope, ABE COMPTON, same address, EDWARD DOUGHTY (now at Pontiac, Michigan, believed to be connected with the Yellow Coach Company), SPER DAMARSON (employed by the Ford Motor Company), RAY DAVIS, EDWARD De HARLEY, 4490 Fifth Street, CECIL FLEMMING, Alexis Avenue, JAMES HARDAGE, 4458 West Jefferson, NEWTON HAWKINS (present Mayor of Ecorse), PAUL KOSAL, Alexis Avenue, HAROLD LAWRENCE, 73 Broadway, EDGAR LAWRENCE, same address, - - LAWRENCE, Senior, same address (father of HAROLD and EDGAR), GEORGE LUKE, Charlotte Street, NORMAN MOORE, MAX MABIE, THOMAS MEREDITH, AL MEREDITH, [illegible] MEREDITH, ELMER MOORE, LAWRENCE MARKEN (The Detroit House of Correction), MARVIN MARROW, 330 West Mills Street, ROBERT McMINTER, Police Department, WILLIAM MURRAY, Broadway, PAUL LIAN, 34 Rockwood, EUGENE PENNY, 32 Union, R. C. PENNY, same address, DON RIZZIE, Pepper Road, - - STEMPSON, first name not known, 3798 Biegel, JAMES STEWART, Ninth Street, GEORGE THOMPSON, Senior, Altar Street, GEORGE THOMPSON, Junior, same address; ELLIS UNDERHILL, 4060 West Jefferson, VOLKER (ex-city official and school teacher), JOHN WATTS, 6434 Hartwell, CHARLES WOODS, BOB WILSON, Alexis Avenue.

The following are the members of the Black Legion at Wyandotte, Michigan:

J. W. ALLEN, CLAYTON BILLS, Telegraph Road, EDZAR BRANCH (deceased), R. W. BURNS, CLYDE DILLAN, DAMEN (no first name given) Police Commissioner, Wyandotte, FRANKLY NICHOLS, Sibley Road, ROBERT

Detroit File #45-46

FERLAND, Auburn Street, MARION PRESTON, ALBERT RIDGERAY, JOSEPH SCHLAY, JOSEPH SCHNAUBELT, 1470 Harris.

In addition to the above names Detective MEEHAN advised that OTTO KASKELLA is reported to have a girl friend who is the daughter of TOM WATTS, a preacher, at 1128 Seward, Detroit, Michigan, who possibly might have information as to KASKELLA'S present whereabouts. He further advised that a Checker cab driver named JIM HENDERSON, who resided at 3198 Brooklyn, Detroit, Michigan, was sought for questioning in regard to cases of the murders of Black Legion origin, but that he had never been located, and that this person if located might have information regarding the case. He further advised that LEONARD LIPPS, 4600 Commonwealth, Detroit, Michigan URBAN LIPPS, presently at the Detroit House of Correction, and LUKE LIPPS, Grandview Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan, were all very active in Legion activities and might have some information regarding the PITCOCK murder.

The above officers stated that they had never conducted any investigation regarding the alleged murder of ROY PITCOCK, although they had heard his name mentioned, and the fact that he had probably been murdered during the course of their investigation of the other cases.

The records of the [redacted]

b7D

b7C

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

FD-529 (10-20-78)

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
## FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

8 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consulation to the following government agency(ies): _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
45-1133-8 pages 17-24

XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
DELETED PAGE(S)
NO DUPLICATION FEE
FOR THIS PAGE
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

401

Detroit File [illegible]

In an attempt to ascertain the jurisdiction of the Federal Government on the Detroit River, and also the names of registered boat owners on the Detroit River, W. T. KIEL, local Inspector, Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, United States Department of Commerce, 488 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed and suggested that SHERMAN MOORE, United States Lakes Survey, War Department, Room 636 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, be interviewed in this regard. MR. KIEL, however, advised regarding the checking of boats that his office had a record of twelve thousand names, all of persons, who were employed on boats in this district; that these records contained the fingerprints, description, handwriting and photograph of every individual so employed on any American vessel; that his office, under the Central Record Station in Washington, D.C., maintained a complete list of all persons employed on American vessels registered in the United States, and containing the above fingerprints, photographs, descriptions and handwriting. He stated, however, that it would be unusual for a person to be registered there who was the owner of a boat and suggested that Agent contact the United States Customs Service, who had a registration of all boats on the Detroit River, this office being located in the Customs Building, Larned and Griswold Streets, Detroit, Michigan.

SHERMAN MOORE, Engineer in charge of surveying work and engineering on the Detroit River, United States Lake Survey, War Department, 636 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed and furnished the writer with a map of the Detroit River, showing the international boundary line as running on the American side of Fighting Island following the main channel running on the American side of Fighting Island, although there is also a channel on the Canadian side on the opposite side of Fighting Island. This map shows that the shore line of the State of Michigan varies somewhat as to the shore line of Fighting Island, there being a variance of between two and three miles between the two points at various points from the Michigan shore. The boundary line, according to MR. MOORE, as shown on the map is accurately drawn in conformity with the treaty between the United States and the Dominion of Canada. MR. MOORE stated that MR. SAM SMITH, chart product man and chief photographer usually makes the charts and can testify as to their accuracy.

It will be noted that the map referred to above was issued by the United States Lake Survey to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that these maps are a confidential source of information.

Detroit File #45-46

MR. ROCKE stated that to the best of his knowledge the State of Michigan had absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever on the Detroit River; that the Federal Government had sole jurisdiction on the Detroit River on the American side of the international boundary line. He stated that the case of the United States vs Chandler - Dunbar Water Power Company, which went to the Supreme Court of the United States, involving a civil case, took up this question.

The records of the State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan showed that at the present time JOHN BAUMERMAN, #40099, JOHN VINCENT, #43587, THOMAS CRAIG, #39039, [illegible] ZEE, #40100, PAUL EDWARDS, #39040, HARVEY DAVIS, #43078, EDGAR BALDWIN, #39046, ALBERT STEVENS, #42536, and EARL ANDSTADT, #39044, are all serving time at that institution at the present time and that they are all known to have been connected with Black Legion activities, as shown on the records.

The facts developed above to date were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. [illegible], who stated he would recommend further investigation to determine where the actual murder of PITCOCK took place, and that this would probably eventually involve the interviewing of the alleged members of the party, who murdered PITCOCK. However, as the Bureau has requested a report at this date, undeveloped leads are being set out regarding further investigation. No undeveloped lead at the present time is being set out for the St. Paul Office at Buhl, Minnesota to interview OTTO MACHELLA. The leads in this office will be covered in the near future unless information is received from the Bureau to the contrary. A separate letter is being written to the Bureau, requesting advice as to additional investigation.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: THE DETROIT OFFICE at WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA, will ascertain whatever information is available at the Coroner's Office, and at the office of the Provincial Police regarding PITCOCK'S death, and will interview peace officers who worked on this case for any information of value they may have, to show facts surrounding the murder, where it was committed, where the body was found and in what condition, and who was responsible for the crime. Will conduct any additional investigation in this section which is deemed advisable.

AT ROCKE, MICHIGAN, will interview [redacted] to determine if he has any information regarding instant case, particularly as to whose boat was used in the transportation of PITCOCK to Fighting Island.

b2D

Detroit File 245-46

b7D

AT [redacted], MICHIGAN, will interview [redacted] privately to ascertain from him whatever information he may have regarding instant murder, and also to determine whose boat was used in the commission thereof. It should be borne in mind that [redacted] is reported to know the boat that was used, but that he may not be cooperative, as his partner, [redacted] is known to be a member of the Black Legion.

b7D

AT TRENTON, MICHIGAN, will ascertain the present address of [redacted] who is reported to be either at Trenton, Ecorse, or River Rouge, and will question this party regarding any information he has with regard to instant case.

b7D

AT MONROE, MICHIGAN, will attempt to locate [redacted] who is reported to have been well informed regarding Black Legion activities at the time of the PITCHER murder, and will question this person regarding information in his possession as to who was involved in the murder, and attempt to obtain from him, if possible, the person's name whose boat was used in the transportation. It will be noted that this person had been reported as possibly being evasive during questioning, but that he did advise Lieutenant WATKINS of the Michigan State Police, that he witnessed a murder committed by the Black Legion members in Ohio.

AT JACKSON, MICHIGAN, will reinterview DAYTON DEAN, with a copy of the True Detective Magazine of January or February, 1937 to see if he can recall any further details regarding instant case and will question him as to who the members of the Black Legion were who were present at the time the man was hanged on the Nine Mile Road in Lenawee County about 1936, as these persons are supposed to have information on instant case. It will be noted that DAYTON DEAN, during the last interview suggested that a copy of the above magazine, if procured and presented to him, might help him in clearing up facts, which were at present somewhat hazy in his memory.

AT JACKSON, MICHIGAN, will thereafter interview HARVEY DAVIS, EDGAR BALDWIN, RAYMOND LEE, [illegible] LIPPS, and question them as to the names of the men who were in [illegible] party in the night of the POULE murder, and who are apparently the sufferers of BOY PEPCOCK. Will thereafter interview VIRGIL MURROW first, in an attempt to obtain from him a confession regarding instant murder, and will thereafter interview other subjects involved in this case.

THE DETROIT OFFICE at DETROIT, MICHIGAN will check the records of the Identification Bureau, Wayne County Sheriff's

Office to obtain whatever information is available regarding VIRGIL MORROW, ALBERT STEVENS, THOMAS CRAIG, OTTO KASCHELLA, CHARLES KING, EARL LAWRENCE and JAMES E. BLACKHALL, and will ascertain if there are parties known to the Identification Bureau by the names of JOHNSON and EMERSON, who were connected with the Black Legion, as mentioned by DEAN, as being possibly parties involved in the murder of TAYLOR, and will obtain similar information regarding these persons.

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, in the United States Customs Offices, Customs Building, Larned and Griswold Streets, and will ascertain if any of the persons shown to be members of the Black Legion at Wyandotte and Ecorse, Michigan are shown to be owners of a boat on the Detroit River, and will thereafter set out leads to check on any individual found to so own a boat, to determine whether or not this individual owned the boat that was used in instant case.

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN at the Fort Precinct of the Detroit, Michigan Police Department, Fort and Green Streets, will interview [redacted] for any information he may have regarding instant case.

b7D

CC-160

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

December 16, 1938

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: SAC DETROIT

URGENT; ROY PITCOCK, VICTIM; MURDER OR HIGH SEAS; KIDNAPPING. SUBMIT WITHIN FIVE DAYS REPORT REQUESTED IN BUREAU WIRE DATED DECEMBER SEVENTH.

HOOVER.

45-1133-9

Detroit, Michigan
December 13, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: HARRY A. LOUCHEAR
SPECIAL AGENT

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 13, 1938, addressed to Special Agent HARRY A. LOUCHEAR, directing him to proceed to New York City for assignment.

In this connection, please be advised that Agent LOUCHEAR is presently handling the investigation of the case entitled, "JOHN BARKEHEAR, et al; ROY PITCOCK, Victim - KIDNAPING AND [illegible] ON THE HIGH SEAS," which is a rather involved matter concerning the activities of the "Black Legion." Inasmuch as he has the matter well in hand, the interests of the Bureau would probably best be served by having him continue this investigation. It is believed that he can complete this work, and other pending matters assigned to him, by approximately January 3, 1939.

Accordingly, unless the Bureau instructs to the contrary, Agent LOUCHEAR will not depart for New York City until on or about that date.

Very truly yours,

John S. Rogge
Special Agent in Charge

HAL:AM
66-331

cc-New York City

1133-16
DEC 20 1938

66-4259-122

GEC:MK

45-1139

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL December 28, 1938
AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Old Federal Building
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Re: JOHN MARSHALL; et al; NOT
PTOCH, Victim; KIDNAPING;
MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.

The Bureau is in receipt of the report of Special Agent E. A. Loughran, dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, with regard to the above entitled matter.

Your attention is directed to the information concerning Bureau instructions in connection with this investigation set out in the second and third paragraphs on page 3 and the second paragraph on page 5 of this report. Inasmuch as the above information is of a purely administrative nature, the Bureau is entirely unable to understand the reason for same being included in an investigative report, a copy of which was furnished the United States Attorney. For your information and guidance, information of this nature should not be included in investigative reports, and if instances arise in connection with which you desire to acknowledge receipt of Bureau instructions of this kind, same should be handled by letter.

Your attention is also directed to the information set forth on page 25 and the first paragraph on page 26 of reference report concerning inquiry conducted by the investigating Agent with regard to the matter of establishing the fact of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River. You are instructed that the question of jurisdiction on the Detroit River is entirely within the province of the United States Attorney, and the Bureau is unable to understand why your division should conduct any investigation with regard to this question of jurisdiction. Inquiry tending to establish that the boat upon which the crime was allegedly committed belonged to Americans or was registered under the laws of the United States is of course a thoroughly proper investigative step. However, the matter of actually establishing Federal jurisdiction with regard to crimes committed upon the Detroit RIVER is a function of the United States Attorney.

RECORDED
INDEXED

45-1132-11
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 29 1938
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Bureau desires to direct your attention to the fact that the investigation of this matter was originally instituted as a result of information furnished your division by Captain Ira Kalhoun of the Michigan State Police to the effect that Captain Marsan had obtained definite information from Dayton Dean that Ray Pitcock was killed on a motor launch on the Detroit River and was taken thereafter to Fighting Island, which is located in Canada. According to the information set forth in your letter dated August 5, 1938, Assistant United States Attorney John P. Sullivan, Detroit, Michigan, requested an investigation concerning the facts related by Captain Marsan, in which connection he requested that a Bureau Agent obtain from Dayton Dean a written statement setting forth information allegedly furnished by Dean to Captain Marsan, Mr. Sullivan indicating that Federal prosecution would be authorized if a violation is developed. The Bureau authorized an investigation upon the above basis, and the signed statement obtained from Dayton Dean and quoted in reference report has been carefully reviewed, it being noted that this statement fails to substantiate in any way the information originally furnished by Captain Marsan. It is noted that Dayton Dean did not relate any facts whatever with regard to a murder on the Detroit River or a Federal kidnaping, and from the information set forth in his statement, it appears that he probably does not possess information of value in connection with this matter, inasmuch as he apparently depends entirely upon surmises and subsequent detective story articles for his theory concerning the Pitcock murder, although the reference report fails to definitely indicate his theory concerning this murder.

In view of the apparent discrepancy between the information originally furnished your office by Captain Marsan and the facts actually furnished by Dayton Dean himself to a Bureau Agent, it would certainly appear that Captain Marsan should be pressed concerning the original source of his information when subsequently interviewed following the interview with Dayton Dean, although reference report fails to indicate that attempts of any kind were made at this time to obtain from Captain Marsan the real source of the information originally related by him to the Detroit office. It is noted, when subsequently interviewed, that Captain Marsan referred the investigating Agent to another Michigan State Police officer, indicating that he, Marsan, does not possess detailed information of value concerning this matter.

The Bureau notes that following the interview with Dayton Dean, an investigation was undertaken which obviously leads toward a general investigation of Black Legion activities and alleged members thereof in an effort to establish the possibility that Pitcock may have been murdered in such fashion as to constitute a violation within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

You are advised that the Bureau most certainly does not desire that your office conduct a general investigation with regard to alleged Black Legion activities and members merely upon the possibility that Black members

may have been at some time committing violations within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

Inasmuch as the original complaint furnished to your division by Captain Harmon was not in any way substantiated in the subsequent interview with Dayton Dean, Captain Harmon's alleged informant, it would appear that the investigation should have been terminated at this point and appropriate discussion had with the United States Attorney pointing out the above discrepancy. Enclosed report indicates that Assistant United States Attorney Dubosch has recommended additional investigation, although the report fails to set forth the basis for such request, and does not indicate the nature of the additional investigation requested. It is noted that this report fails to indicate that the discrepancy between Captain Harmon's original story and that furnished the Bureau Agent by Dayton Dean was called to the United States Attorney's attention, and inasmuch as the information set forth in the report fails to reflect that Captain Harmon or his alleged informant, Dayton Dean, possesses any definite information upon which to base a further investigation, the Bureau desires that the United States Attorney be reinterviewed and the facts of this matter completely discussed with him along the lines indicated above.

The Bureau desires to be promptly and fully advised concerning the results of this discussion with the United States Attorney.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

Detroit - Michigan
January 3, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: JOHN BANNIGAN; et al:
ROY PITCOCK - Victim.
Kidnaping; Murder On The
High Seas

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 28, 1938, in regard to the report of Special Agent W. A. Loughran dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, in connection with the above-entitled matter.

Please be advised that investigation was conducted by this office in the above-entitled case as to the jurisdiction of the Federal Government on the Detroit River at the request of Mr. John [illegible] BABCOCK, Assistant United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, as set forth in the last paragraph on page 4 of reference report.

With reference to page 3 of the Bureau letter regarding the failure of Assistant United States Attorney Babcock to set forth the basis for requesting further investigation, the Bureau's attention is called to the third paragraph on page 26 of reference report showing that the request of Mr. Babcock is based on his desire to determine where the murder of Pitcock actually took place. It will be noted that during the interview with Mr. Babcock by Special Agent Loughran it was not possible to obtain an opinion from him as to whether the Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction on the Detroit River within the International Boundary Line although he was last interviewed particularly regarding this point and he stated that the Bureau should first ascertain where the crime was committed.

With reference to the variance reported between the statements of Captain Ira M. Harmon of the Michigan State Police and Dayton Dean, it does not appear from a review of the file that any variance exists as to the main substance of the information furnished. Captain Harmon had to obtain some of the information

JAN 10 1939

(Letter to the Bureau from SAC Detroit
dated January 3, 1939)

furnished from other sources than Dayton Dean. These sources are available to the Bureau and are being checked through undeveloped leads set out in reference report.

Captain Marmon has stated that Pitcock was taken from his home in his night clothes, strangled on the way to Fighting Island in a launch and that his body was hung in an old shack on the island. This was apparently a deduction borne out by the fact that the information in the Coroner's report in the possession of Captain Marmon shows that Pitcock's feet were clean while the floor of the shack he was found in was covered with ashes. Of course, part of the above information apparently came from the Pitcock family.

Dayton Dean on the other hand states that he met the group of Black Legion members at the Masonic Temple at West Lafayette and Waterman Streets in Detroit; that he saw robes, masks and a rope at the meeting place which were taken along by his group but that after murdering Charles Poole his group proceeded to the German Inn on West Fort Street in Detroit where Dean definitely recalls meeting Thomas Craig, Albert Stevens, Virgil Morrow and possibly John D. Mitchell. He further recalls that these men worked under Hennessman and that from certain remarks made by that group coupled with the finding of the body of Pitcock, who had previously been threatened by the Black Legion, he knew that this group had murdered Pitcock. Dean's reference to the detective magazine story was only to help him to further refresh his memory.

The information that Dean has furnished is, of course, only circumstantial and the only direct evidence of murder is probably in the facts that can only be related by the murderers themselves.

When the facts developed in the investigation, as set forth in reference report, were presented to Assistant United States Attorney John W. Babcock at Detroit he was of the opinion that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that Pitcock had been murdered and to warrant further investigation to develop whether:

1. Pitcock had been kidnaped and taken across the International Boundary Line and murdered



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FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 3 of 3

PAGES AVAILABLE THIS PART 202

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## FILES CONTAINED IN THIS PART

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2

# CULTIST TO BE EXTRADITED

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 28 (International News Service).—Gov. Martin L. Davey today signed the formal papers for the extradition to Michigan of Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, of Lima, accused Black Legion commander.

The Executive gave his approval to two requisitions presented by Michigan authorities for the extradition of Effinger to answer charges growing out of the Black Legion investigation at Detroit.

Effinger, who disappeared Tuesday while his extradition hearing was in progress, still was missing today, but authorities were inclined to believe he would give himself up to Allen County authorities at Lima.

His attorney, Clarence Miller had announced earlier that Effinger would appear in event Davey approved the extradition and would immediately start proceedings for a writ of habeas corpus.

NEW YORK [illegible]

AUG 28 1936

61-7398-A

3

# Fugitive From Cult Hearing Sought

## *Reputed Chief of Black Legion at Large; Hunt Pushed*

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 26 (U.P.). Virgil H. Effinger, reputed Black Legion national commander sought on fugitive warrants, remained at large tonight more than a day after his flight during a recess in his extradition hearing.

Michigan authorities, seeking the electrical contractor charged in Detroit with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs, learned that Effinger returned secretly to his home in Lima yesterday and arranged for distribution of Black Legion handbills.

As Ohio city and State police searched for Effinger today, Gov. Martin L. Davey postponed his decision on releasing him to Michigan in order to study the case further. It was indicated he might rule Friday.

DETROIT, Aug. 26 (I.N.S.).—Arthur Lupp, sr., reputed commander of the Black Legion in Michigan, and two of his alleged henchmen surrendered to police today. They had been sought since a one-man grand jury indicted them and 19 others on charges of criminal syndicalism last week. Surrendering with Lupp were Wilbur Robinson, alleged "brigadier general," and Frank Howard.

61-7398-A

WASH HERALD

AUG 27 1936

# 4 STATES HUNT FUGITIVE CHIEF OF BLACK KLAN

## Ohio Delays Extradition of Effinger but Seems Favorable

## 3 LEADERS GIVE UP ON DETROIT CHARGES

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP).—Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger.

Meantime, Governor Martin L. Davey decided to take the request under advisement for a few days.

Effinger, described by Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea as the national commander of the hooded and robed Black Legion, had dropped completely out of sight during a recess of yesterday's extradition hearing.

**Lima Police Criticized**

His wife told Lima police early today he was in Columbus and Franklin County (Columbus). Deputy Sheriff E. D. Van Horn and Arthur Popiel, a Detroit investigator, left Lima immediately for the capital. She refused to say where he might be, but they said they would try the address of a relative.

However, a Michigan official, voicing criticism of the police of Effinger's home town of Lima, Ohio, for failing to arrest him, said he probably had gone to Pennsylvania or Illinois to stay with friends.

The official, Assistant Attorney General Guy W. Jensen, asked State police of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to watch for him and pick him up as a fugitive from justice on separate warrants sworn out here and in Lima.

**Three Surrender in Detroit**

DETROIT, Aug. 26 (AP).—Arthur F. Lupp Sr., admitted State organizer for the Black Legion; Wilbur Robinson, a brigadier general in the hooded order, and N. Ray Markland surrendered today to answer a charge of criminal syndicalism.

Markland, former Mayor of suburban Highland Park, and Lupp were charged with conspiring to kill Martin H. Zink, Highland Park Commissioner, and Arthur L. Kingsley, publisher of the community newspaper there, as well as with syndicalism.

Markland's surrender left all twenty-two defendants in the syndicalism case accounted for except Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, Ohio, contractor who is a fugitive, and Isaac (Pegleg) White, former Detroit policeman.

**Accused Man Held Sane**

A commission appointed to inquire into the sanity of Harvey Davis, Black Legion colonel accused of leading the group charged with kidnaping and killing Charles A. Poole last May 2, reported today that Davis is sane and able to stand trial.

The trial of Davis and eleven others in the Poole case is scheduled to start in Circuit Court next Monday.

61-7398-A

New York Post

AUG 26 1936

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61-7598-A

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Daniels
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenwoth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Barbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Black Legion Head, Turned in by Wife, Sought in 4 States

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP)—Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for stocky, cigar-smoking Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger.

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61-7398-A

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Conroy
Mr. Lear
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# BLACK LEGION 'CHIEF' SUDDENLY VANISHES

## Lima, Ohio, Man Is Sought by Police of 4 States After Quitting an Extradition Hearing.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 25 (AP).—A four-State police search for Virgil F. Effinger began tonight on the heels of his disappearance from an extradition hearing.

Effinger, a Lima (Ohio) electrical contractor, named by Duncan C. McRea, Detroit prosecutor, as national commander of the mysterious Black Legion, walked out of the hearing just as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

The deputies had a warrant for him, granted to the Michigan authorities by the Columbus Municipal Court.

The State highway patrol immediately broadcast a general alarm calling for his arrest "as a fugitive from justice." Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Attorney General of Michigan, disclosed that he had asked State police of Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania also to be on the lookout for Effinger.

"He has friends in Illinois and Pennsylvania," Mr. Jensen said, "and I believe he's gone to one or the other State."

Late today Charles Leasure, secretary to Governor Davey, indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan request for Effinger's extradition.

At Effinger's home at Lima information was given both that he was here and later that he was not. Lima police stationed a squad near the home.

61-7391 A

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER 8/26/36

# POLICE HUNT OHIO BLACK LEGION CHIEF

## EFFINGER IS SOUGHT ON 2 WARRANTS

Lima Man Disappears From Extradition Hearing as Detroit Gains Ground in Removal Fight.

STATE PATROL MOVES TO CATCH 'FUGITIVE'

Ohioan Accused on Basis of Michigan Bill Charging Bomb Possession.

BULLETIN.

LIMA, O., Aug. 26 (Wednesday).—(AP)—Mrs. Virgil F. Effinger told police early today her husband, who disappeared during an extradition hearing yesterday in Columbus, was in Columbus and two policemen left immediately for there.

61-7398-A

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER 8/26/36

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 25—(AP)—The State Highway Patrol tonight broadcast a general alarm for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit as national commander of the hooded Black Legion.

The broadcast followed by a few hours Effinger's disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing just as Franklin County (Columbus) deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Highway patrol radio headquarters said the broadcast, calling for Effinger's arrest "as a fugitive from justice," was made on request of sheriff's deputies.

**Obtain Two Warrants.**

Michigan officials, here for the extradition hearing, obtained the warrant in Columbus Municipal Court as Charles S. Leasure, secretary to Gov. Martin L. Davey, overruled numerous technical objections of Effinger's counsel to the Detroit extradition papers and then indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan requisition.

The governor's office announced shortly afterward that a formal decision would be made tomorrow.

Deputy Alfred Farrell of Detroit meanwhile went to Effinger's home city of Lima and swore out before the Municipal Court there a similar "fugitive from justice" warrant.

This second warrant was turned over to Lima police.

A squad of policemen was dispatched immediately to Effinger's home, with orders to remain there until Effinger appeared. The squad still was waiting there just before midnight.

Effinger's absence from the hearing here was noted after a recess.

At the hour-long first session, which began at noon, he sat and fanned himself with his straw hat while his attorney, Clarence C. Miller of Lima, argued against extradition.

He conferred frequently with his lawyers as they tried unsuccessfully to delay the hearing until they could procure alibi witnesses in the portly Effinger's behalf.

When the hearing was resumed, however, Effinger did not return to the Senate committee room.

**Search Columbus Hotels.**

Franklin County (Columbus) sheriff's office attaches, directed by Deputy Henry Keely, waited in the State House corridors to serve on Effinger the Columbus Municipal Court warrant, charging him as a fugitive wanted on a criminal syndicalism indictment in Detroit.

When Effinger had not appeared an hour after the hearing was resumed, they made an intensive search of the State House and Columbus hotels but could not find the Lima contractor, once an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in his home county.

John A. Ricca, assistant Detroit prosecutor, said the Columbus warrant was designed to expedite Effinger's removal to Detroit if the extradition warrant is granted by the governor.

## Black Legion's Leader Hunted by Ohio Police

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 25 (AP).—The State highway patrol broadcast a general alarm tonight for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Detroit, as national commander of the hooded Black Legion.

The broadcast followed by a few hours Effinger's disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing just as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

61-7217-1

WASH. POST

AUG 26 1936

Mr. Nat[illegible]
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tr[illegible]
Miss Gandy

# BLACK KLAN HEAD SOUGHT IN OHIO

## Michigan Authorities Ask Gov. Davey to Arrest and Return Alleged Leader

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 24 (AP).—Michigan authorities arrived today seeking to extradite Virgil F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, named by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit as national commander of the Black Legion.

Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Michigan Attorney General, and John H. Ricca, Assistant Detroit Prosecutor, headed a half dozen investigators of the hooded order's activities to present requisition papers to Governor Davey. Effinger is charged with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Effinger, one of twenty-two indicted last week on the basis of affidavits describing a plot to stage an uprising September 16 and overthrow the Government, has denied the charges. He said re would fight extradition.

### New Indictments Slated

DETROIT, Aug. 24 (AP).—Additional indictments of members of the sinister Black Legion impended today while detectives pressed a hunt for eight of twenty-two persons named last Friday on charges of criminal syndicalism.

Thirteen of those indicted by Circuit Judge James E. Chenet, who sat as a one-man Grand Jury, were in custody and aides of the Attorney-General were in Columbus, Ohio, to obtain an order for extradition from Lima, Ohio, of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named in affidavits as national commander of the secret society.

### Named by Dean

An affidavit by Dayton Dean, confessed Black Legion triggerman in the killing of Charles A. Poole which first exposed the activities of the terrorists, named Effinger as leader of a proposed plot to seize arsenals and Government buildings with an armed uprising September 16.

Effinger, an electrical contractor at Lima, has termed the charges nonsense and said he would oppose efforts to extradite him to Michigan. Lima police have declined to detain Effinger until warrants are approved by Governor Davey of Ohio.

61-7396 A

New York P

AUG 24 1935

Good
Dugby Otr
of Vincent

## Effinger Sought

COLUMBUS, O.—A formal request for the extradition of Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger of Lima, reputed head of the Black Legion, to face criminal charges in Michigan, was made to Gov. Martin L. Davey today. Michigan officials brought the extradition papers to Davey's office and conferred with his secretary in charge of extradition matters.

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

AUG 24 1935

13

# CULT 'LEADER' ASKED OF OHIO

COLUMBUS, Aug. 24 (By International News Service). — Gov. Martin L. Davey today was formally requested by five Michigan officials to permit extradition to that State of Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger, of Lima, alleged tri-State leader of the Black Legion.

The formal request, filed at Davey's office, asked that he permit Effinger's return to Detroit to face a warrant charging him with carrying explosives and an indictment accusing him of violation of Michigan's criminal syndicalism law in connection with an alleged Black Legion plot to overthrow the Government.

Charles W. Leasure, Davey's secretary, said he had been informed Effinger will fight the extradition proceedings.

61-7398-A

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Step on It

INDICATIONS that the Black Legion still survives recent publicity persist in spite of the indignation the discovery of several murders has aroused. Last week, for example, an Ohio police chief arrested a man charged with being the Legion's leader. If these stories have any foundation in fact, it is time that more drastic action be taken than has yet been attempted. And facilities for such action are ready at hand in the shape of various laws enacted to combat kidnaping and gang crimes. It should not be difficult to discover a ground on which the federal government could intervene. And if the G-men took a hand in the proceedings they, with the support of the federal courts, would have full power to act in cases where there is ground for suspecting that local officers have been identified with the Legion.

The Black Legion is a completely subversive organization. On the confession of its members it has lived on violence, not excepting murder. The quicker it is broken up the quicker unreasoning, deluded Americans will be protected from a poison deliberately being planted in prejudiced minds.

61-7398-A

San Diego Union
San Diego, Calif.
8/15/36

15

# LEGION URGES PROBE OF RED FORCES IN U. S.

## Starnes-Reynolds Bill to Plug Immigration Leaks Backed; Unit Candidates Named

Vigorously reaffirming their staunch opposition to communism, District American Legionnaires in the second night of their convention at the Mayflower Hotel asked a study be made of subversive forces at work in this country.

Resolutions asking for a committee of three Legionnaires to draw up an explanatory document to be printed for distribution after its approval by the executive committee were passed by the body.

### *Probe Needed*

The resolutions stated "there is a great need of a source of information on communism fascism, nazism and governments by dictatorship in relation to our American ideals."

In other resolutions the Legion condemned the Black Legion, Black Shirts and other "utterly reprehensive" organizations, pledged support to the Starnes-Reynolds bill covering deficiencies in immigration laws, reaffirmed their stand on mob violence and lynching, asked repeal of the famous "marriage clause" and asked for establishment of a veterans' hospital for women who served in the World War.

### *Study Secret Groups*

A special committee was authorized to study the activities of secret organizations "who use methods of brutality, mutilation, kidnaping and murder to attain their un-American principles."

The legion also urged that compensation pay to widows of World War veterans be extended to those whose disabilities were 10 per cent. At present payments are made to widows of those who suffered 30 per cent disability.

They also voiced approval of the establishment of a Civil Service Court of Appeals.

### *Name Candidates*

Delegates also named candidates for offices in the District Department, as a prelude to a hotly contested election tonight. Jack O'Connell, of the Vincent Costello Post, and Horace W. Lineburg, of the Police Post, were named candidates for the position of commander.

First vice commander will be either John B. Karley or Ray L. Zwinglas, while the candidates for national executive committeemen are James O'Connor Roberts and James J. Malloy, retiring commander.

### *Opposes Reds*

One of the anti-red resolutions read:

**"Whereas communism is still a factor in American life, the Legion repeats and renews its absolute opposition to communism and other forms of 'subversiveism,' and to all agencies that support or disseminate its doctrines."**

The resolution supporting the Starnes-Reynolds bill stated:

**"Whereas millions of aliens are illegally in this country and hundreds of thousands of them are on relief and are being supported by us to the detriment of citizens, we endorse the Starnes-Reynolds bill introduced at the last session which covers the deficiencies and evils of our immigration laws."**

The "Black Legion" resolution stated secret orders of its kind "strike at foundations of American principles and imperil law and order."

61-7397-A

WASH. HERALD

AUG 15 1936

R. B. JOSEPH

16

# MORE BLACK LEGION REVELATIONS

Latest and most shocking of the Black Legion revelations is the confession of Dayton Dean, its trigger man, that members of an outing shot a Negro war veteran to death near Pinckney, Mich., May 25 "just for the hell of it."

For sheer bloodthirsty depravity and viciousness it would be hard to equal Dean's story of how Black Legion members on a week-end party with their wives lured their victim, Silas Coleman, out into the country and then shot him to death for their entertainment.

It is just such abnormal sadism and pathological lust for blood and torture that mark the activities of Fascists in other countries. Their appearance in this country, in connection with a fairly widespread organization, is a challenge to decent Americans.

The new Dean confession calls attention to the soft-pedaling of the Black Legion investigation in Michigan. Six murders have been proven against this organization. Eight others are attributed to it. In addition it is held responsible in six floggings and in several cases of bombing and arson.

Grave questions are raised by the fact that three of the six murders definitely laid at the doorstep of the Black Legion, those of Jack Marchuk, Jack Bielak and Roy C. Pidcock, were murders of men active in organizing labor, notably in the automobile plants.

**How high does the trail of these murders reach? How much have Michigan investigators learned? How many prominent business men or politicians are involved? These questions demand an answer and if Michigan investigators cannot answer them, Federal investigators should.**

Here certainly is a job for the G-Men.

61-7398-A

New York Post

JUL 2

# 'Bible Burner' Shot To Death by Wife

## *Black Legion Linked to Latest Tragedy Under Probe*

DETROIT, July 20 (I.N.S.). The Black Legion was linked with another death probe today after Mrs. Emma Lugenbell, 56, former restaurant owner of Toronto, confessed shooting her husband to death, declaring her mate scoffed at religion, burned her Bible and once branded her across the chest with a hot poker. She told police:

**"I believe he was a member of the Black Legion. He used to belong to the Ku Klux Klan and he had been attending a meeting some place in a field every two weeks."**

It was the Black Legion which decreed the death of Charles A. Poole, Works Progress Administration worker, on spurious reports he beat his wife. In this case Mrs. Lugenbell declared her husband, Frank, 48, was the wife beater. She said:

**"I shot him three times in our confectionery store Saturday afternoon after he beat me and blackened one eye. My mind was a blank after that. I remember seeing him put the gun away. Then it was in my hands, and I was pulling the trigger."**

61-7396-A

WASHINGTON

# *It Need Not Happen Here*

*To the Editor of New York Post:*

Sir—Recent news reports indicate that Attorney General Cummings has refused the request of Michigan authorities to investigate the activities of the "Black Legion" in that State. The Attorney General has refused to turn his G-men to this task for the reported reason "lack of Federal jurisdiction."

We trust that Mr. Cummings will not think us presumptuous in calling to his attention the following pertinent Federal statute:

"Section 51, U. S. C. A. (Criminal Code, Section 19).—Conspiracy to injure persons in exercise of civil rights. If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same, or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than $5,000 and imprisoned not more than ten years, and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to any office, or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States. (R. S. Section 5508; March 4, 1909, c. 321, Section 19, 35 Stat. 1092.)"

Fortified by legal opinion, we believe that the Attorney General has ample authority and reason to use his justly famed Bureau of Investigation to ferret out Fascist hoodlums as well as kidnapers.

In fact, the former seem to us a more potent threat to American law and order than a dozen Al Capones. READER.

61-7393-A

JUL 14 1936

## U. S. INQUIRY ASKED

**Probe of Black Legion Is Urged by International Labor Defense.**

NEW YORK, July 9 (AP).—The International Labor Defense disclosed today that it has petitioned United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings to order a Department of Justice investigation into terroristic activities of the Black Legion.

The International Labor Defense, in a letter to Cummings, contended that the Government could prosecute under Federal statutes against night riding, kidnaping, threatening communications, flight from the State to avoid prosecution for a felony, interference with the Federal Relief Administration, and fraudulently obtaining Federal aid.

61-7398-A

## TREASONABLE BOASTS

For several years one George W. Christians of Chattanooga has been mailing red-inked letters denouncing men of prominence, exhibiting racial and religious intolerance and threatening to use force to institute his ideas as to how the government should be run.

Now this self-annointed leader of the "Red Revolutionary Society of the White Shirt Crusaders" is openly boasting advocacy of violence and asserting that eventually his organization will "embrace all but 5 per cent of the Nation's population."

The last ridiculous brag is of no significance save in its insult to American intelligence. The first repeats more brazenly what the author has said many times in the literature he has broadcast. Possibly it is because that literature is stupidly bombastic and moronic in tone, the writer has so far escaped official notice. Yet there is in it the stuff of which Black Legion murders are concocted and which, in any other country, long ago would have held its author answerable to charges of treason and conspiracy.

61-7396-A

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PLEASE RETURN TO
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PRESS INTELLIGENCE
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SYMBOL

PAPER

CITY

DATE JUL 1 1936

## LET'S HOPE STATE LINE WAS CROSSED

It is not yet known whether or not the Columbus county band of terrorists has invaded federal law and until that question is settled District Attorney Carr's proposal to enlist service of federal investigators to root out Black Legion hoodism in eastern North Carolina must remain as a gesture. And it is a reflection on the law enforcement agencies of Columbus county or of the State of North Carolina that a federal investigation is so much as suggested. But on the theory that an honest confession is good for the soul, frank North Carolinians may as well admit now that the chances are 100 to 1 that neither local nor state authorities will get far in stifling mob-rule that has lifted its head in Columbus county. When something is said about federal legislation to curb mob-rule and mob-lynching there are always those ready to jump up and object on the grounds that it involves invasion of states' rights. But when time comes for local and state authorities to move against mobsters and terrorists, those defenders of states' rights keep quiet while perfunctory probes, investigations and grand jury deliberations proceed toward an uncertain end.

So, it might be a good break for all concerned save the terrorists if it develops that a state line was crossed. Then we could save our faces from surrender of states' rights and at same time probably get somewhere in burning out a decayed spot in our Tar Heel law and order armor.

61-7378-A

# THE MONROE COUNTY WEEKLY

Established 1935

A Home-Owned Independent Tabloid Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Greater Monroe and Monroe County.

Published Weekly by The Lamour Publishing Co.

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## CO-OPERATION Among Police

J. Edgar Hoover revealed recently in a newspaper statement and also in a magazine article that the federal department of justice had not received the proper support and co-operation from certain city or local authorities in rounding up "public rats" who were known thugs, gangsters, kidnappers and killers.

Now comes the revelation in Detroit that TWO YEARS ago the federal department of justice agents and Mayor Hackett of Highland Park were informed of the "murder ring" known as the Black Legion—and that Mayor Hackett and Arthur Kingsley, Highland Park newspaper publisher, were marked for death by the Black Legion, an infamous organization that foisted itself on this and other states for political supremacy by terrorizing those who stood in the way.

Every true American owes it to himself and his country to uphold law and order—and why there should be jealousy—or worse—between local, state and federal law enforcement officers is a conundrum to the average taxpayer who pays his good money to see that laws ARE enforced.

61-7397-A

# HOODED NIGHT RIDERS FLOG FIVE WOMEN

## Mother of Girl on Trial Shows Red Cross Branded on Head; Man, 3 Daughters Beaten

WHITEVILLE, N. C., June 29 (U.P.)—Columbus county authorities, unable to learn the identity of a gang of night raiders from the six victims, all residents of this area and among them four women, a 14-year-old girl and a 65-year-old man, have rearrested a man considered an important witness in the case.

The prisoner, Pink King, was reportedly held in jail at Wilmington, near here.

### *Freed of Assault*

Information about the masked raiders, who whizzed through the country-side, was obtained at King's trial here on charges of criminally assaulting the 14-year old girl victim of the mob. The girl's mother, forced to remove her hat, showed the court her clipped hair and a brand mark, which she said the mob marked her with after flogging her and the girl, a mental deficient.

Authorities rearrested King on another charge after he was acquitted of attacking the girl.

### *Gang of 18 Men*

The theory that the night raiders, known to have included from 11 to 18 men, who were dressed in white sheets and wore masks over their faces, acted because of religious motives was given after victims of the raids revealed the assaults followed charges of alleged immoral conduct or reputed whisky selling.

Questioning at the rial revealed the girl and her mother had been taken from their cottage by a gang approximating 18 men, who whipped the two and then warned them to "mend your ways, go to Sunday school and be good women."

The other women flogging victims were daughters of a 65-year-old farmer, who authorities had accused of immoral conduct.

61-1398-A

JUN 30 1936

# Young Boy Watches as Mother Is Slain

## 'Black Legion' Scrawled on Mirror in Lipstick After Brutal Murder of Chicago Woman

CHICAGO—A sleepy young boy ran into a hotel lobby here early today and sobbed out that a Negro or black-masked white man had beat his mother to death and then scrawled "Black Legion" in lipstick on a mirror.

The victim was Mrs. Florence Castle, pretty 25-year-old divorcee and night club hostess. Her son, James, 7, awoke in their dimly-lighted hotel room to see the intruder "hitting mother about the ears" with a brick.

The boy's dim recollections, stammered between tears, were followed eagerly by police anxious to learn whether the hooded Michigan terroristic organization really had perpetrated the crime.

The killing occurred in a hotel frequented by "show people." James' father, James Thompson, was said to live in Boston. Her second husband, known as Bud Castle, was reported in Los Angeles.

James said the slayer tried to soothe him by saying, "Don't worry. I'll take you ~~to Los~~ Angeles in the morning."

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Carter
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-1297-A

WASH. NEWS

JUN 29 1936

125

# BLACK LEGION EXPOSE MEETING ANNOUNCED

**Retired Seattle Advertising Man Reveals Plans for Public Session July 22.**

By the Associated Press.

SEATTLE, June 27.—N. P. Atkinson, retired advertising man, today announced a public meeting the night of July 22, to expose what he said is the Pacific Northwest spread of the Black Legion, secret order recently discovered in Michigan.

Atkinson said he represents the committee on the significance of the Black Legion idea, and said the "idea" is being carried on by a group which urges members to carry firearms.

"They are active now, meeting in neighboring guilds. The movement should be stamped out before it dominates the community," Atkinson said.

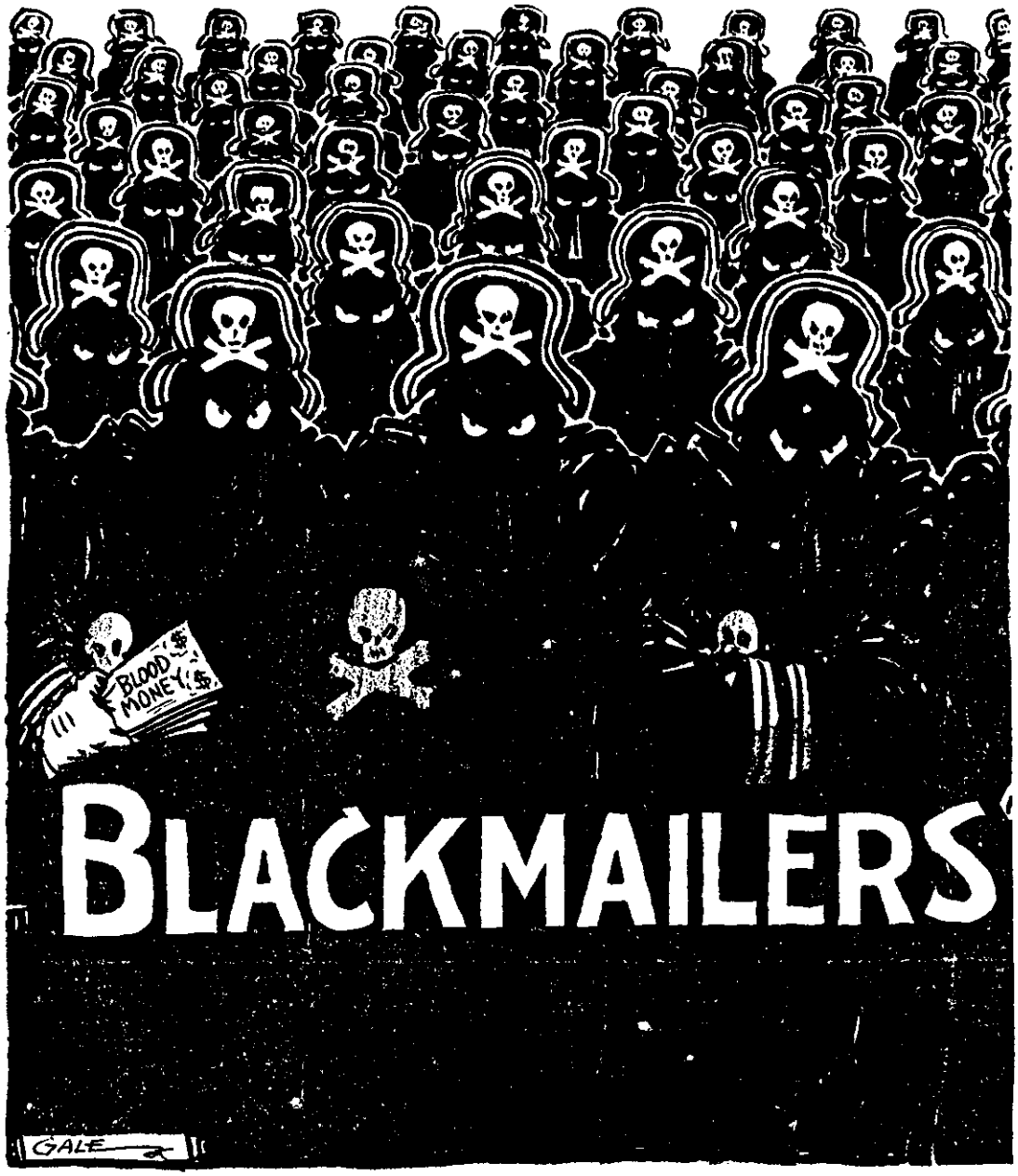
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Slaughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnsworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lamar
Mr. Quinn
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7318-A

JUN 27 1935

20

# Another Black Legion!




Now that J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men have made kidnaping unprofitable and unhealthy for the underworld, wouldn't it be a good idea for them to turn their attention to the Black Legion of Blackmailers?

The only difference between Blackmail and Kidnaping is that the Blackmailer holds the victim's REPUTATION for ransom instead of his person.

One crime is just as despicable as the other.

Stamping out this Black Brotherhood of human leeches should be the next task for the G-men!

Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

7-6 61-7329C

# Proof of "Black Cult" Sought by Gov. Davey

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 24 (I.N.S.).—Gov. Martin L. Davey today called upon Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, to submit any "official information" he may have concerning alleged "Black Legion" crimes in Ohio.

The governor's action was in reply to a letter from McCrea urging thorough investigation of Black Legion activities in Ohio, which McCrea described as the "hotbed of the Black Legion."

61-7398-A

WASH. TIMES

# Human Side of the News -:-

By Edwin C. Hill
*The Globe Trotter of Hearst Metrotone News*

THIS Black Legion which has been uncovered in the Mid-West is nothing new in American life. It seems that in every generation we must have a group of self-righteous individuals who feel that they are above the law and that it is their duty to see that their neighbors live according to the way they would point out for them. They may start off with the purest of motives, but always they wind up as criminal, murderous gangs.

The Black Legion recalls to me the black hand which for fifty-five years disfigured the wall of a cell in the jail at Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. The mark was left by a convicted member of the Black Legion of his day, an organization of cut-throats and terrorists which went by the name of the Molly Maguires.

**A MINER.**

The man was a miner, and the story went that as he was being dragged from his cell to the gallows, he wrenched his right hand free, rubbed it on the floor with coal dust and slapped it high on the wall, saying, "That mark is the handprint of an innocent man. It never can be washed away."

It wasn't for more than half a century. Then, in 1931, Sheriff Robert L. Bowman grew tired of the legend of the curious who would come to the jail to look on the hand in the cell of the Molly Maguire. "We'll have no more of the hand," said the sheriff, and with a penknife he cut out the plaster.

The Molly Maguires brought racketeering to the United States. They followed the same methods as the "mobs," such as Al Capone's, which have graced our own day. They began as a philanthropic society among the Irish miners in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields.

They got their name from a secret band which was organized in Ireland in 1843 among the lower class of tenant farmers for the purpose of preventing eviction and of terrorizing the

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
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Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
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Mr. Hogan
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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scheidt
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7390-A

agents of absentee landlords. The nickname came from their practice of disguising themselves as women.

The Pennsylvania Molly Maguires were notorious for twenty years for their outrages on English, Welsh and German mine owners.

They became dominant in the labor circles in the anthracite fields and in political circles as well. Assault and murder were commonplace, the mine bosses were terrorized, the police were helpless and it was worth a man's life to walk the streets of Mauch Chunk, Scranton or Wilkes-Barre after dark.

**TRAILS SUSPECTS.**

At last Franklin B. Gown, president of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and Coal and Iron Company, determined to call in the Pinkertons, and they sent to him a young Irishman who had been running a saloon in Chicago until Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern to destroy the saloon and the rest of the city by fire. His name was James McParland.

He went into the anthracite fields in 1873 under the name of James McKenna. In the three years that followed, McParland lived in the expectation that each succeeding minute would be the last for him on this earth. He began his detective work as a miner, but soon learned that the big guns of the Molly Maguires either were holding political jobs or running saloons, and not working in the pits.

An old slaoonkeeper himself, McParland wormed his way into the confidence of Pat Dormer, a Molly, who kept a saloon in Mauch Chunk.

Slowly and carefully, for the least false step meant his life, McParland edged into the high council of the Mollies until he was made their secretary. The twenty-year campaign of terrorism came to a climax in 1875 with the murder of a policeman and a mine boss.

**SPRUNG THE TRAP.**

Thereupon, McParland sprung the trap, rather he sprang eleven traps, for that was the number of the ringleaders of the Molly Maguires who went to the gallows in the space of a year.

Forty-five others went to prison, and the Molly Maguires were no more. James McParland was the J. Edgar Hoover of the 1870's. His work in Pennsylvania alone would have given him a place second to none in our detective annals. Yet he was to duplicate it in Idaho in 1906 when he broke up the reign of thuggery and assassination instituted by the "Inner Circle" of the Western Federation of Miners, which came to an end when McParland convicted Harry Orchard of the murder of ex-Gov. Steuenberg and got Orchard to implicate the miners' officials in 25 other murders.

McParland used the same tactics as in Pennsylvania and broke up this gang of terrorists, whose chief weapon was dynamite, with which they had killed 13 men at one clip by blowing up the railroad station at Independence, Col.

# 'Black Cult' Loots Norfolk Church

## *Tabernacle Stolen by Hooded Mob; Altar Linens Ruined*

NORFOLK, Va., June 19.—Revealing the background of the Black Legion in all its viciousness, members of that "hooded klan" today invaded Sacred Heart Catholic Church and stole the most sacred object of Roman Catholic worship—a 400-pound tabernacle and its contents.

In carting away the tabernacle and a solid gold ciborium containing 500 particles of the sacred host, the Black Legion's marauders ripped apart the altar and left it in a shambles.

The altar linen, blessed and carefully guarded through the years, was strewn over the floor as the "klan's" crew of vandals accomplished its work.

Police, who laid the theft at the door of the Black Legion, expressed the belief that the thieves gained entrance to the church by smashing a rear window.

As word of the looting circulated through the city, leaders of all religious groups offered assistance in the search for the marauders.

61-7398-A

WASH. HERALD

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# Red Baiting Held Dangerous Pastime by Dr. Chaffee

## New Hysteria Wave Might Be Laughed Off, If Its Consequences Were Not So Serious, Says Presbyterian Editor

By DR. EDMUND B. CHAFFEE
Editor, Presbyterian Tribune

One of the most curious and sinister effects of the depression has been the revival of red baiting. This indoor and outdoor sport is probably an inevitable accompaniment of hard times. It will be recalled that this phenomenon appeared in this country soon after the Great War when our economic system went into reverse. It was then that we had the "Palmer Raids" by the Justice Department when hundreds of suspected radicals were suddenly thrown into prison altho it later developed that there was a dearth of evidence to justify such action.

So today we have a great chain of papers feeding their readers day after day with dreadful stories of radicals and Communists. We have jittery officers in various communities raiding meetings and locking up speakers on the suspicion that they may be reds. In fact, it begins to appear as if we were in for another of these waves of hysteria. We use the term "hysteria" advisedly for there is nothing in sober reason to justify this fear. It is a matter of the emotions. It is a reflex of economic insecurity.

Dr. Chaffee

### SHOW LITTLE STRENGTH

If we look at this matter calmly and try to see the facts which are open to anyone who will take the trouble to ask a few questions, we find that the Communist Party in the United States is in plain fact pitifully weak. It has much less than 50,000 members. Even if we count with them every type of Marxian, Socialist, Socialist Labor, I. W. W. and all of the 15 or 20 groups taking that general position, there would not be 150,000 in all this land. If to that we add all those who are affiliated in other organizations, defense leagues, etc., still the total would be only a few hundred thousand, a small fraction of 1 per cent of our population. When the statement is made that there are 3,000,000 reds in the United States, one suspects that the statistician responsible for this figure must have counted all Harvard alumni, American Indians and all signal men who wave a red flag.

However, it is [illegible] that most those who make such statements actually have no intention of using these terms with any degree of accuracy. They are throwing red mud and a red for them is anyone who is not 100 per cent for things as they are. In fact, the red scare has become in all lands the favorite way of blocking reform. If one doesn't like a particular man or group there is no more effective way of discrediting him or them than by pinning the red label. It is this way that the advocates of the child labor amendment have been pilloried; this device too has been used for the purpose of discounting the co-operative movement. Even those who have been sincere believers in the present economic system and have sought to save it by reforming it have had the red epithet thrown at them.

### MISLEADS THE WEAK

We might ignore all this were it not for the fact that many a kindly but ignorant man takes it all seriously. He proceeds to act upon it. The Black Legion in Detroit and its environs shows the final consequences of such loose talking. Not a few well-meaning but misguided folk actually take seriously such a curiosity as Mrs. Dilling's Red Network and consider it their patriotic duty to keep all listed in that document from being heard from any platform. From belief in such fantastic documents it is but a step to belief in "The Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion." From that the descent is rapid so that even in this land of public school education and tolerance documents are being circulated calling upon Christians to get out their 45s to prevent the Jews from ruling the world.

Red baiting is a dangerous pastime. It destroys its victims; it just as truly make a hell of life for those who give themselves to its fear and cruelty. And for every red destroyed by such methods a dozen others are made.

WASH. NEWS
JUN 20 1936

61-7398

Mr. Nelson
Mr. Boughton
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Ritter
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

Hood

## O. K. Black Legion Probe

The Senate Judiciary Committee today approved the Benson resolution calling for an investigation of the Black Legion.

61-7396-1

WASH. NEWS

JUN 18 1936

Hood

**SENATE APPROVES BLACK LEGION PROBE**

International News Service

By a unanimous vote the Senate Judiciary Committee today approved a joint resolution calling for a sweeping investigation of the Black Legion and other un-American activities of terrorist groups.

61-7377-A

JUN 1 0 1935

E. JOSEPH

# Liberals Urge F. D. to Back U. S. Probe of Black Legion

Declaring the real leaders of the Black Legion have not yet been exposed, 30 prominent liberals appealed to President Roosevelt today to urge enactment of the Benson-Dickstein Resolution for a congressional investigation of the terrorist group.

Signers of the letter to the President included Sherwood Anderson, Bishop Edgar Blake of Detroit, Bishop Benjamin Brewster of Maine, Prof. Paul H. Douglas of Chicago University, John F. Finerty, Washington attorney; Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, Prof. Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard, Bishop Robert L. Paddock of New York, Ernest Poole, novelist, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York.

**POLITICIANS INVOLVED**

They are members of a special committee on the Black Legion formed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

This letter said:

"Disclosures of Black Legion activities in Michigan and neighboring states indicate that these hooded terrorists have secretly armed for a campaign of murders, floggings, bombings and arson, directed against minority racial, religious and political groups.

"Most sinister aspect of the Black Legion is its connection with men in political office. . . . Public interest demands a thoro exposure of the Black Legion, its sources of funds, its connections and its leadership. The present investigations . . . are aimed only at discovering evidence of crime. Much more is involved. . . .

"May we urge you, Mr. President, to use your influence to insure the passage of the resolution by the present Congress?"

The resolution introduced jointly by Sen. Benson (R.-L., Minn.) and Rep. Dickstein (D., N. Y.) provides for a committee of four senators and four representatives to investigate the Black Legion and other organizations "spreading similar un-American propaganda of religious, racial, or subversive political prejudices." The committee would be empowered to call on the various Government departments for assistance and would have full powers of subpena.

DETROIT — James E. Bader, employe of the suburban city of Pontiac, today was sentenced to 30 days in jail for giving evasive answers at a grand jury investigation of charges that the Pontiac police force is honeycombed with Black Legionnaires.

Fifteen alleged Black Legion members, charged with plotting the death of a village president and a newspaper publisher, were held for trial today at the conclusion of their examination.

Recorder's Judge John P. Scallen said he had found sufficient evidence to hold 12 of the men in connection with the death plot against Arthur L. Kingsley, Highland Park publisher, an dthree others in connection with a plan to "get" William W. Voisine, Ecorse president.

Both intended victims were political enemies of the vigilantes.

The court ordered present bail of the 15, double sureties on $25,000 bonds each, to be continued pending the trial, date for which was not set.

61-7390 A

WASH. NEWS

## G-MEN, STAND BY

If the published oath of the so-called Black Legion is authentic, kidnaping was not outside the realm of crime to which the deluded members of the new Klan bound themselves. Just at present the Michigan state officials are investigating a murder charge against a group of 12 who were bound by the "blood oath." If the state inquiry reveals kidnaping conspiracies, the G-men ought to step into the picture at once.

It's safe to predict that with G-men on their trail, the promoters of the Black Legion would soon be rounded up and their power over their fanatic followers broken.

5-21-36

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
May 27, 1936

**Colored People Seek Lynch Law**

NEW YORK, May 27 (A.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has telegraphed President Roosevelt, asking him to insist that the Van-Nuys anti-lynching resolution be reported out of a congressional committee.

It quoted J. Edgar Hoover as admitting the bureau of investigation was unable to join in investigating reports of "lynchings and other mob activities of the Black Legion in Michigan because no federal law authorized him to act."

The telegram said no objection could be raised to the demand by "the most violent partisan" because "there is neither sectional nor racial issue in the Black Legion situation."

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnworth
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Jones
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

0XL

11-7395 A

Federal Bureau of Investigation

## Do We Need More G-Men?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by J. Edgar [redacted] director of the Federal Bureau of Inv[redacted]tion, that the G-Men would not intervene in Mi[redacted]gan's "Black Legion" cleanup, was based upon th[redacted] fact that up to that time the "Black Legionnaires" had not been known to violate federal laws.

Farther than that, it is wise, we believe, to adhere to definite limits to the activities of the G-Men.

Their service to the nation has been remarkable. Since they have exterminated all of the "yellow rats" on the Bureau's list, there has been some agitation for extension of the activities of the G-Men. On the other hand, there has been heard, in individual instances, the protest that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was a menace to state's rights.

Both views, we believe, are in error.

The G-Men have handled, with eminent success, crime problems which state and local authorities were powerless to handle—notably kidnaping. There was every reason for the federal government to take a hand in the types of crime which local law enforcement agencies could not handle alone. It is ridiculous to assume that this constituted invasion of state's rights.

There is a practical reason, however, for not wanting the federal crime-fighting agency to take in too much territory. The reason is that a decrease in efficiency would almost inevitably ensue. Concentration has been one of the keynotes of the success of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to date. If a great number of cases demanded the attention of G-Men, their effectiveness in handling each would, naturally, be decreased.

There is another way, and a much better way, to meet the problem, and that is through the adoption of F. B. I. standards of efficiency and methods by state and local law-enforcement agencies.

Instead of envying J. Edgar Hoover, as some police officials do, the heads of state and local crime-fighting units should copy after him. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has sponsored police training courses in several major cities. This activity could be carried on until all police organizations were versed in the methods of the G-Men.

The present need of America is not so much a ~~need of~~ more G-Men, but more state ~~and local~~ officers as well trained and as efficient as G-Men.

**LOUISVILLE HERALD-POST**
**5/27/36.**

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7398-A

R. B. JOSEPH

PITTSBURGH PRESS

May 27, 1936

# MAN ATTACKED FOR REFUSING TO JOIN BAND

## Victim Tells of Being Interviewed by U. S. Justice Agent

## THREATS REVEALED

## Man Attacked, Then Freed After Given Warning Not to Talk

*By The United Press*

LIMA, O., May 27 — William M. Smith, 55, weather-beaten farmer, described today how he had been beaten unconscious, held prisoner in corn crib, and threatened with death by the Black Legion.

He incurred the enmity of the secret organization, Mr. Smith said, because he refused to join after attending a meeting. He said he had talked with a Department of Justice operative and was told by the G-Man that "at the proper time" he would be called upon to tell of his experience in court.

He and a young relative had been cutting corn. Mr. Smith said, on Sept 29, 1934. After the day's work was done, the relative suggested they take an auto ride. They picked up two neighbors and drove to a farm home 15 miles away.

"It was raining hard as we turned into a long lane," he said. "We drove back off the road about a half mile.

**"Two fellows dressed up like the devil himself walked up to the car. Each of them had a flashlight in one hand and a gun in the other.** I knew right then that was no place to be and I would have took off through the field if it hadn't been raining so hard.

"The fellow I was with said to one of the fellows, 'two recruits,' and he let us pass," Mr. Smith continued.

"I said I'd just as soon sit in the car and wait. The longer I sat there the colder I got, but pretty soon I spied my relative in a little shed. I ran over there but he had gone by the time I got there. I sat down on a box. **They had 12 recruits lined up and a man I knew was filling out cards for them.**

"They counted the men and the cards and found out I didn't have one. This friend walked up and said, 'What's your name?' I said 'You know what my name is. This is a lot of tom foolishness.

**"Those other recruits was too scared to say anything. Their teeth was crashin' together like a hog eatin' charcoal.**

"He filled out the card and they marched us into a big barn. There was about 200 of them in the barn, all decked out in that paraphernalia.

"The chief gazabo, a great big fellow with a heavy voice, was hollering about the Democrats and the Republicans. He said, 'the damn Democrats and the damn Republicans have been runnin' this country long enough. **We're going to take over the Government and run it ourselves.'**

"He lined us up and told us what a fine organization it was and then said if any of you is a Catholic you better get out of here quick.

"I said I was no Catholic but I was ready to leave. He said 'why' and I said **'If it's such a good organization, what do you have to meet in the middle of the night for?'**

"He said because they were outlaws; they were just like the old guerilla bands. I said, 'Well, I'm no outlaw.'

**"He hollered, 'Why you yellow ....., I'll mash your brains out with this gun.' I said, 'Maybe you will in here with all these fellows on your side but you won't outside,' and I started shoving to get out.**

"Just as I got to the door one fellow jumped on my back. I swung around and one of them hit me on the head and another hit me on the back of the head. **The next thing I knew they were carrying me out through the rain.**

"They carried me to a corn crib and laid me down. Two of them, both carrying pistols, sat down on the floor to watch me. That was about 12:30. **Along about 2 a. m. a fellow came up to the crib and asked me if I wanted to reconsider. I said, 'Hell no.'**

"Well about 4:30 one of them came up and said I could go. I got out and two of them marched longside of me poking guns in my sides. One of them said, **'If you ever tell what happened here tonight, you'll die within 24 hours.'"**

Mr. Smith said he told officers what had happened the next day and that two days later, two men threatened him with:

**"You told and you're going to die."**

Six weeks later, he said, a Department of Justice agent came to see him.

61-1396-A

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## SUSPECTS 'LEGION' THREAT

**Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.) - Says He Got Warning Letter.**

*By the Associated Press.*

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.) said today he had received a threatening letter from what "might be the Black Legion."

"It was not singed," asserted the Congressman, "but it suggested that I had a green plot two by six waiting for me back in Michigan."

Hoffman said he regarded it as a "crank" letter, but would gladly turn it over to authorities if they thought it might pertain to the hooded organization.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Smith

61-7298 A

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# Black Legion Inquiry By Congress Advocated

## Dickstein Would See if It Has 'International Connections'

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP).—Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat, New York, tonight urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American" Black Legion to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Mr. Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terroristic activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subversive organizations."

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice-chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year. He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds.

He added that it would be "interesting to ascertain" if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a Colorado group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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NEW JERSEY
PRESS CLIPPING
BUREAU
11 HILL ST. NEWARK

COURIER-NEWS
Plainfield, N. J.

MAY 27 1936

# Ohio Sheriff Asked G-Men's Aid In Black Legion Probe, He Avers

Lima, Ohio—(AP)—Disclosure that the Department of Justice was asked to investigate the beating of an unwilling candidate for Black Legion membership and testimony that a leader of the vigilantes claimed control of relief jobs extended today ramifications of the secret order whose members have been named in murder, flogging and kidnaping charges.

While authorities in Detroit and other Michigan cities reopened inquiries into every unsolved crime of violence there for the past several years, Sheriff W. E. Kelley, of Auglaize County, Ohio, reported that he had asked the Justice Department last September to investigate the beating and intimidation of William Smith, 55-year-old Waynesfield, Ohio, farmer who refused to join the society.

Sheriff Kelley said he never had received a reply from the Department of Justice, so considered at the time that the federal agents had not regarded the matter as worth going into.

To Smith's story of assault and threats of death when he refused to be initiated into the Black Legion, was added the disclosure that a witness before an Ohio State Senate committee last summer had named V. F. Effinger of Lima as head of the night riders and said Effinger claimed to be able to control jobs in relief offices.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

11-7348-A

925 Broad St. Nat'l Bank Building
Trenton, N. J.

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Mr. Edwards
Mr. Tracy

REPORTING WORKS FOR DOJ

DETROIT—PROSECUTOR DUNCAN C. [illegible] ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS ASKED THE AID OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE [illegible] ACCIDENT [illegible] ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGER S. CUSHING [illegible]

B.

61-7398-A

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Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnsworth
Mr. Gale
Mr. Gurley
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

RECORDED
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WGNS44

ATTORNEY GENERAL CUMMINGS SAID TODAY HE HAD RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BLACK LEGION ACTIVITIES.

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Leith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# CHURCH FIRED BY 'REFORMER'

WILMINGTON, Del., May 27. (I.N.S.).—Touched off by a self-styled and apparently demented "reformer," a $20,000 fire today swept through the Sacred Heart Catholic Church here.

Firemen found the following warning, scrawled in crayon, on the church's main altar:

**"With the compliments of the reformer—notice."**

Police officials squelched rumors the "reformer" was a member of the Black Legion, terrorist cult under investigation in Detroit.

Authorities said there has been no evidence of Black Legion activities in this area.

The fire was started in a pile of rubbish in the church basement. It spread rapidly through to the first floor, burning several pews and scorching the walls before it was put out.

~~66-184~~

61-7398-A

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fosworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Carter
Mr. Beloin
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

## *COYOTES*

COYOTES are known to western ranchmen as skulking creatures of the night. They look something like wolves, but they have the hearts of alley dogs. The most cowardly of American beasts, they always hunt and attack in packs, and they always pick their prey from among the defenseless. They contrive to yap-yap in loud, shrill chorus, thus making people who do not know their ways believe that a small band of them is a veritable horde. Their blood brothers among the bipeds are such fauna as the authorities of Michigan have turned up, members of the so-called "Black Legion."

America knows this nocturnal breed of robed and hooded skulker, just as the western rancher knows the coyote. They have a sinister and fearsome ritual, but they are not brave men. They hunt in packs, make the appearance of power by means of threats, incendiarism and ritual killings, attack only minority groups.

America must exterminate such organizations as the "Black Legion" in the same ruthless way that ranchers exterminate coyotes.

61-7295-A

MAY 27 1936

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# House Member Urges Inquiry Of Black Legion

## Investigation to Determine Possible European Link Asked by Dickstein.

Representative Samuel Dickstein (Democrat), of New York, last night urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American" Black Legion to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terroristic activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subversive organizations."

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year. He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds.

He added it would be "interesting to ascertain" if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year as operating in Colorado.

### Five More Arrested.

Detroit, May 26 (AP).—Every unsolved crime of violence in southern Michigan during the last few years was under renewed investigation tonight as State and county authorities pressed their war to uproot the Black Legion, hooded vigilante society whose members have been named in murder, kidnaping and flogging warrants.

A promise by Attorney General David H. Crowley to call grand juries in each county in which such crimes could be traced to the black-cloaked night riders spurred the investigations of violence and terrorism in at least five southern Michigan counties. Fires of incendiary and undetermined origin also were under investigation.

While these activities were being pushed, another batch of warrants was sworn out at Jackson, Mich., against reputed members of the secret terrorist organization. They numbered 25 and charged kidnaping and assault. They were followed immediately by the arrest of five men accused of being ringleaders of a mob of night riders who stripped and flogged Harley Smith, of Norvell, Mich., whom county officers said was a member of the order seeking to withdraw.

### Guard Among Suspects.

The men arrested at Jack[illegible] were Ray Ernest, a guard at the [illegible] penitentiary, and described [illegible] county officers as a "brigadier general" in the Black Legion; Allen Basom, of Norvell; Clarence and Glenn Ernest, brothers of Ray, and Dite Hawley, another prison guard. Ray Ernest has been accused by State police as the leader of a mob that flogged Paul Every, another prison guard, so severely that he died two weeks later.

The inquiry took another tangent today when Lieut. Van Loomis, of the Michigan State police, said that cards taken from Ray Ernest indicated the possibility that a women's auxiliary of the organization existed.

Attorney General Crowley and Oscar G. Olander, State commissioner of public safety, went to the State prison today to investigate reports, they said, that the staff of the penitentiary was "honeycombed" with Black Legion members, and that every one of the nearly 400 prison attaches has been approached to join the black-robed society.

### Prison Guard Ousted.

One prison guard was dismissed today and several others were suspended. Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald announced that all State employes found to have connection with the order are to be dismissed or suspended.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County, who has been handling the inquiry in Detroit, disclosed today that he may unknowingly have signed an application for membership in the society while he was campaigning for election two years ago.

"I was more or less of a professional joiner at that time," he said. "But before I get through with this investigation, there will be no suspicion in anybody's mind that I [illegible]ined such an un-American organ[illegible]ation."

Prosecutor McCrea raised the [illegible] point today in connection with [illegible]vestigation of Black Legion act[illegible]ties that the fire that destro[illegible] Father Charles E. Coughlin's o[illegible]inal Shrine of the Little Flower [illegible] March 17 never had been solved.

McCrea today called a meetin[illegible] the county gun board to revoke [illegible] permits for carrying firearms. [illegible] "starting all over again" in the [illegible]suance of permits, he said, t[illegible] held by members of the Black [illegible]gion will be definitely outlawed.

In an incendiary fire near J[illegible]son early today, State and co[illegible] authorities professed to see defi[illegible] of the "war of extermination" [illegible] have announced against the ma[illegible] night-riding band. State police [illegible] they frustrated an attempted m[illegible]ing of a hooded group near the [illegible] occupied farm of George [illegible] shortly before a barn and se[illegible] outbuilding were destroyed [illegible] flames.

In a raid by Wayne Co[illegible] authorities in the Down River [illegible]trict this morning, five places [illegible] entered and the raiders, le[illegible] Harry Colburn, McCrea's chie[illegible] vestigator, seized a numbe[illegible] weapons and considerable litera[illegible]ture.

Examination for the [illegible]en arraigned today in Jackson has been set for June 2. In Detroit 12 men who have been held without bail on murder and kidnap warrants are to appear for examinations tomorrow.

Mr. Ne[illegible]
Mr. To[illegible]
Mr. Ba[illegible]
Chief [illegible]
Mr. Cle[illegible]
Mr. Co[illegible]
Mr. Ed[illegible]
Mr. E[illegible]
Mr. Fo[illegible]
Mr. Gu[illegible]
Mr. Jo[illegible]
Mr. Ke[illegible]
Mr. [illegible]

61-1398-A

WASH. POST
MAY 27 1936

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*UNMASKED BY THE POLICE*—Members of the Black Legion, terrorist organization, are lined up here before the bar of circuit court at Detroit. "Col." Harvey Davis (in vest at right) is charged with being one of the actual killers of Charles Poole, relief worker slain in Black Legion ritual executions, according to police.

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Mr. Boardman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clay
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lo
Mr. Quinn

61-7396-A

[illegible] DETROIT.

[illegible] WERE DEFINITELY THAT THE BLACK LEGION IS NOW OPERATING IN 23 [illegible] STATES," THE PROSECUTOR SAID. [illegible] THAT IT IS VERY ACTIVE IN THE CITIES OF NEW YORK AND CHICAGO. [illegible] HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE [illegible]

[illegible] ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGION HAVE [illegible] THE HAULING OF LIQUOR ACROSS STATE BOUNDARY LINES, WHICH IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE," HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE HUNDREDS OF REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES BY [illegible] ROBERT BARTS HAD COME THE INFORMATION THAT SEVERAL [illegible] HAD BEEN COMMITTED IN STATES OTHER THAN MICHIGAN. [illegible] COURSE, IT WAS UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE THESE, AND FOR THAT REASON [illegible] THE AID OF THE REPORT [illegible] SAID. [illegible] STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. [illegible] PROSECUTING ATTORNEY I HAVE [illegible] AN INVESTIGATION OF THE [illegible] BLACK LEGION IN MATTERS [illegible] RECEIPT OF MORE [illegible] COMMUNICATIONS DEALING WITH [illegible] OF THE ORGANIZATION. [illegible] GROUP OF TOURISTS IN [illegible] POSSIBLE FOR ME TO INVESTIGATE [illegible] THAT BELIEVE THEY HAVE VIOLATED FEDERAL APPLICABLE. [illegible] IT IS TOTALLY [illegible] SOMEONE [illegible] DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. [illegible] WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED FROM INVESTIGATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION. [illegible]

[illegible]

*No. 1—Harvey Davis, Black Legion "colonel," shown being photographed for the Detroit police records after 12 members of the vigilantes had been charged with slaying Charles A. Poole.*

*No. 2—Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit, after records of the legion showed a membership card with his signature on it. McCrea said he might have signed the card unwittingly during his election campaign, but added: "Before I get through there will be no suspicion I joined."*

*No. 3—Harley W. Smith of Norvell, Mich., a witness before the Jackson, Mich., grand jury, who said he was forced and was flogged May 5.*

*No. 4—Russell H. Holmes of Michigan Center, also c testify.*

*No. 5—Floyd J. Reithmiller, guard at South Michigan called before the jury. Prosecutor Owen Dudley of charged all 385 guards at the prison had been sought a bers because they had weapons.—Copyright, A. P. Wir*

WASH. STAR

MAY 27 1936

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boyd
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

B

61-1398-A

51

Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

[illegible] PRUNELLE, D. — TRANSCRIPTS OF DETAILED TESTIMONY CONCERNING [illegible] BLACK LEGION DOMINATION OF ALLEN COUNTY POOR RELIEF ADMINISTRATION WERE MADE PUBLIC TODAY BY REP. [illegible] PHILLIPS, REPUBLICAN, OF ALLEN COUNTY, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE RELIEF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WHICH CONDUCTED HEARINGS IN LIMA LAST JULY. [illegible] WITNESSES, WHILE THE COMMITTEE THAT MEMBERS OF THE BLACK LEGION [illegible] DIFFERENCE IN THE HANDLING OF RELIEF, WERE MADE TO BELIEVE OF RELIEF PROJECTS, AND THAT NON-MEMBERS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. [illegible] OF THESE WITNESSES, REPORTER REPORTS, LIMA ADMITTED UNDER [illegible] THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEGION. [illegible]

61-9398-A

Mr. Edwards
Mr. Elzas
Mr. Fogarty
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Miss Gr

Ermich

[redacted]

[redacted]

ADD BLACK LEGION RESOLUTION, HOUSE.
RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE.
WOULD AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE BY THE SPEAKER
PROVIDE FOR COMPLETE CO-OPERATION OF THE POSTOFFICE AND JUSTICE
TMENTS.
WASHINGTON

ADD BLACK LEGION RESOLUTION, HOUSE.
RESOLUTION CALLS FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE EXTENT, CHARACTER,
AND RESOURCES OF THE BLACK LEGION PRIMARILY BUT ALSO
INVESTIGATION OF NUMEROUS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.
WERE NAMED AS THE BLACKSHIRTS, THE CHRISTIAN PARTY, THE
OF NEW YORK, THE ROBERT EDWARDS EDMONDSON ORGANIZATION
OTHER GROUPS WHICH SPREAD UNAMERICAN PROPAGANDA AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

61-7398-A

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[redacted]

THE DETROIT NEWS
May 26, 1936

# Demands War on Terrorists

## Rep. Dickstein Calls for U. S. Action

WASHINGTON, May 26.—(U.P.)—Rep. Samuel Dickstein (Dem.), New York, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, today demanded investigation by the Justice and Postoffice departments of reports that "terrorists" are seeking to "destroy" Jews and Catholics.

Dickstein said that if Postmaster-Gen. James A. Farley and Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are unable to take proper steps, he will appear for Congressional action.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles Kramer (Dem.), California, charged that the mails were being used to distribute propaganda to foment "anti-Jewish" hatred, and asserted that he also had complained to the Postoffice Department.

If the departments decline to make the investigation, Dickstein said he would seek to reopen hearings this summer and fall by the House committee investigating un-American activities. Kramer is a member of that committee.

Dickstein told the Department of Justice that since the House inquiry concluded last January, there had been evidence that "foreign elements" were distributing subversive propaganda, some among Government employes.

"It is urgent that these matters be investigated immediately in an effort to discover who is financing these drives," Dickstein wrote. "If you believe you do not have the authority to make the proper investigation, I shall call on Congress for further power for your organization to crush this menace."

Kramer said most of the literature which he wanted investigated was mailed from the Pacific coast.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ennis
Mr. Egan
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Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Zaun
Mr. Farnham
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Jones
Mr. Leigh
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-1398

# lews Views

## CLEVELAND RODGERS

### man and Geoghan—Lindgh's Return—Is Bridge ambling? — Mormon Foresight — Black Legion

REITERATING its demand on Governor Lehman for the moval of District Attorney ab the special Kings County jury makes it clear for the ime that it has completed its y so far as it relates to the t attorney's office.

ve understand it, this means e jurors, after an exhaustive gation, have failed to find ent evidence to justify an int of Mr. Geoghan but bevertheless, that he should oved.

evidence in support of this ion has not been made but it is in the hands of the or, through the order of Rogers. While the Assistrict Attorney who has been remains untried, the case Mr. Geoghan seems otherbe complete. It is for the or to decide whether he will defer calling on the Disttorney to answer the

reported from London that el and Mrs. Lindbergh are g to return to the United n September. This is interews, but certain questions unanswered.

easons given for the de of the Lindberghs were ire to escape from an eshaarowing form of persend to end an ordeal made tuous by the inexplicable certain New Jersey of there any assurance Lindberghs could be rther harassment of this they came back?

JUSTICE KERNOCHAN and the associate justices of Special Sessions in Manhattan, have freed the two women arrested in a raid on their studio where they were charged with the high crime of conducting duplicate contract bridge games.

Justice Kernochan, who has played contract bridge with President Roosevelt among others, was convinced that the game is one of skill and not gambling. The prosecuting attorney admitted that he could find no one to uphold the latter contention. It seems a pity that the police cannot find more important work to do before they begin a crusade against contract bridge.

ONE of the most striking statements made by Thomas I. Parkinson in his admirable address before the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce yesterday was a reference to the Mormon Church, which, he said was preparing to take care of its people when Federal funds are exhausted.

Realizing that the present relief expenditures cannot go on indefinitely, the wise Mormon leaders are taking steps now to forestall the inevitable crisis that will come when Government relief is cut down. The Mormons are a remarkable people and they know that it took hard work to make their valley "blossom like the rose."

ANOTHER five-to-four Supreme Court decision on an issue involving States' rights adds to the confusion over what the Federal Government can and cannot do to help solve grave national problems. This time Chief Justice Hughes joined with the liberal minority.

The majority ruled out the law passed in 1934 to permit cities and other subdivisions of States to reduce their indebtedness through Federal bankruptcy courts as a violation of States' rights. It is still constitutional, however, for the Federal Government to lend or give States, cities and counties funds to help stave off defaults on their indebtedness.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS would have rejoiced in the achievement of young Leslie Peltier, self-educated astronomer, who has just discovered his fifth comet through an old six-inch telescope in a cow pasture in Delphos, Ohio.

Adams, one of the greatest of American minds, felt that astronomy was the subject best suited to arouse an interest in science in the new union. In 1843 there was not an observatory in the United States but a society was formed in Cincinnati to start one and John Quincy Adams, after serving as President and later as a Representative, agreed to journey from Massachusetts to Ohio to lay the cornerstone. He was 77 at the time and the strenuous journey brought on the illness that killed him. But he made many speeches on the trip and to the last helped to spread knowledge.

THE oath of the Black Legion reads like something out of the dark ages. Members were required to swear allegiance to the order which put it above all other considerations of life or death, and the purpose, as described by one of the "chaplains," was "to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies." Other choice bits of demonology are revealed in the papers of the organization accused of conducting wholesale murders.

It seems terrible that such things could happen in Michigan, but the same day's news carried the charge of one of the vice ring's victims in New York that girls who betrayed their overlords had their feet and bodies burned and their tongues slit! The Black Legion merely had a different name for its fiendish gang.

21-7398-A

R. B. JOSEPH

55

# Black Legion Must Go, Says County Prosecutor

## Duncan McCrea Says Members Claim Organization Is National in Scope

By DUNCAN C. McCREA
Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor
Copyright, 1936, by United Press

DETROIT—The Black Legion must be broken if half the stories told by its members to my office are true.

I have asked for a conference between the state police, Justice Department officers and authorities from Indiana and Ohio to break up the black-hooded band, which its members claim is national in scope and includes persons of high and low degree.

The spreading inquiry was the outgrowth of the comparatively obscure killing of Charles Poole, shot in cold blood on the night of May 12.

### STAGGERING FACTS

Facts disclosed since that date stagger the modern American mind. The organization appears to be a throwback to the whipping post, mountain feuds, night riders or the Spanish Inquisition. It has no place in American life.

The Legion is strongly anti-Catholic, anti-Semetic and stands for its own particular brand of Americanism that smacks of lynching. It is a dangerous institution.

### FIGURES UNCERTAIN

We have no way of determining the exact membership of the organization. Those arrested say there are 0,000 in Wayne County alone, while estimates by investigators run as high as 135,000 for the state. We have no way of determining the extent of the band in other states.

The investigation has taxed my office to the utmost. We not only are busy checking up on stories that keep pouring in, but we must check and re-check the stories of the men we hold. We have been occupied in organizing the murder case against the 13 men held.

The Black Legion has no place in America today. It must go.

# Ballston Klan Aide Disavows Black Legion

## No Connection Between Two, Says Federal Employe, Withholding Name

An official of the Ballston, Va., Klu Klux Klan, one of the largest in the state, today said in his opinion that there was no connection between that organization and the Detroit Black Legion, now reaping notoriety in the headlines.

"We believe in law and order," the official, who asked that his name be withheld, said, "and we wouldn't tolerate such violence as reported from Detroit."

The official, who is a Federal employe, said he believed the Michigan vigilante organization had been given the name of KKK to discredit the Klan.

"It's an old story. We've had to contend with it before in Indiana and Louisiana when outlawing was blamed on the Klan by outside influences that tried to put black marks on our organization. In both cases, however, later investigations proved that the Klan had nothing to do with the violence," the official declared.

The Ballston Klan official was skeptical of the reported subversive activities of the Detroit group.

"Every unsolved crime on the police records is being blamed on them now," he said, "but I'm of the opinion most of it is propaganda and it will turn out to be false."

The Arlington County man said there was a Klan organization in Detroit but he didn't know of its activities.

The Ballston Klan will meet Thursday night at which time the activities of the Detroit group may be discussed.

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Mr. Dondiman
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Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WASH. NEWS

BLACK LEGION REGALIA SEIZED

# Guns in Terrorists' Homes

**DETROIT POLICEMEN** decked out in the hooded regalia of the Black Legion found along with weapons in raided homes of members of the organization blamed for at least one murder and suspected of others. The heavy leather whip was taken from the house of "Brigadier General" Ray Ernest,' a State prison guard. International News Photo.

WASH. TIMES

[illegible]

# TERRORISTIC BLACK LEGION'S GRIM ARSENAL

## *Assassination Its 'Cure' for 'Evil'*

FIREARMS and regalia found in the headquarters of the hooded Black Legion of De-oit. Sixteen members of the weird cult are accused of having killed Charles A. Poole hose bullet-pierced body was found in a roadside ditch. They are said to have accused Poole, a former PWA worker, of having beaten his wife. This charge was apparently base-ess. The authorities lay attempts to dominate a Michigan town election by threat to the egion. International News Photos.

CHARLES A. POOLE

61-7397-A

May 26-1936

# 'BLACK LEGION' DEFENDED BY OHIO LEADER

## Killing Deplored By Effinger; Says Principles 'Most Lofty'

LIMA, Ohio, May 26 (I.N.S.). After eluding newspapermen for 24 hours, V. H. Effinger, 54-year-old salesman pictured by Michigan authorities as leader of the Black Legion in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, today defended as "most lofty" the principles of the hooded society and denied any knowledge of the murder of a Detroit WPA worker charged to several of its members.

Effinger claimed the Black Legion has six million members but refused to reveal his connection with the organization or to amplify his typewritten formal statement which read:

**"The Black Legion is a strictly American organization. It is a secret society dedicated to the most lofty principles and stands for the highest form of American progress.**

**DEPLORES KILLING**

**"I know nothing whatever about the killing of anybody, in Detroit or elsewhere, by the Black Legion. The organization deplores anything of this nature. It stands wholly for law and order based on justice.**

**"An unlawful act that might be committed by one or more irresponsible persons claiming membership in any given organization certainly should not be justly construed as a reflection on the legitimate aims and purposes of such organization.**

**"The honorable and law-abiding members of the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Columbus, the Odd Fellows and similar orders have never been made to suffer for the rash deeds of the renegade members of their own organizations, so why should certain cliques now be so eager to place the blame for the slaying of a man in Detroit on the membership of the Black Legion?**

**WILL GO AHEAD**

**"The Black Legion has more than 6,000,000 members. It will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens, despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit.**

**"When a few men let booze get the best of them and then kill a man, it is absurd to attempt to link such an act with an organization that has nothing whatever to do with mad acts of this nature."**

Effinger would not answer questions concerning activities of the Black Legion, or reveal his title in the order. He readily admitted he headed the Ku Klux Klan in Lima a number of years ago. He has lived here 20 years, was formerly an electrical contractor and later a salesman.

# 'Ladies' Au. Of Black L. Is Reveal.

JACKSON, Mich., (I.N.S.).—State police veiled existence of a "la liary" of the Black Legio riding terrorists.

A membership card, si those used by the men, wa in the suitcase full of reco papers belonging to Ray suspended prison guard at J prison, held as the alleged of the clan here.

Lieut. Van A. Loomis, of Detroit police, who is aiding son county authorities in the man grand jury probe of the c activities, said the card bore name of Mary Ernest, 28, wife Clarence Ernest, of Napole brother of the suspended pris guard, and also Olive Ernest, t guard's wife.

MAY 26 1936

## No Black Legion!

POLICE CHIEF RAY ALLEN has taken the proper step in fixing the police division's policy as definitely against any effort of the so-called Black Legion to gain a foothold in Toledo.

Many rumors are about that this organization, whose operations first came to light with the reign of terror in Detroit, is recruiting members in this city and that for the initiation fee of $3 anyone who fits the pattern can join.

We want none of the kind of invisible government this outfit suggests. Toledoans still have the unhappy memory of the tyranny of the Ku Klux Klan, and how its promoters cleaned up by enlisting "100 per cent Americans" in their dangerous scheme to control political offices. The ideal of service for K. K. K. was to intimidate and endanger anyone so unfortunate as to have been born in another country or born black or of a race that was anathema to these self-righteous, professional zealots.

The Ku Klux Klan was a racket, and it died because it didn't deserve to live, an organization thriving on intolerance. But chiefly it died because many of its organizers and promoters were racketeers making a fat living at the expense of unthinking, credulous persons.

These secret organizations thrive in election years. They prosper on strife by taking into their ranks those who are of a common mind on a certain phase of politics.

Now is a good time to squash the first signs of such an organization as the Black Legion, obviously a by-blow of the Ku Klux Klan, gaining a foothold.

Let the campaign be in the open. And let those promoters who hope to get rich thriving on the prejudices and the intolerance of a certain class, be warned to scram while the scramming is good.

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7398-A
Toledo News-Bee
May 26, 1936

Mr. Nat
Mr. Tolson
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Chief Clerk
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Mr. Edwards
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Miss Gandy

# Uncle Sam's New 'Specimen'

**"The Black Legion" deals out its own masked mockery of "justice" with bullets.**

Uncle Sam, in business for 160 years, has seen strange things developed in his Republic. Fortunately, that Republic is divided into 48 separate States, mistaken experiments of each not necessarily injuring any other.

Uncle Sam has seen Ku Klux Klan "Night Riders" burning barns and beating women; forceful Carrie Nation smashing barrooms; "Sockless Simpson" from Kansas, who wore no socks as a sign of "democracy." Uncle Sam has seen prohibition come and go, bringing bootlegging and leaving organized racketeering. He has seen queer, new religions start and some of them die. Now, in Detroit, he meets a new zoological specimen known as "The Black Legion."

This "Black Legion," which calls itself "100 per cent American," appears to be, in reality, "100 per cent masked murder."

The knights of the "Black Legion" feel it their duty to improve government and politics with bullets, NOT ballots.

61-7398-A

New York Daily Mirror

MAY 25 1936

Arrested members of this "Black Legion" confess that it has been their custom, when they thought a man had done wrong, to take him out, tie him to a tree, lash him as long as he could stand it. Recently, they went further: They "tried" and convicted, in their private quarters, a man accused of beating his wife. The man, apparently guilty, was not an admirable character. Wife-beating deserves punishment. But the "Black Legion," not satisfied with whipping this time, took the man out, stood him up, shot him dead. Arrested members confessed to this murder for "better government."

The wife of the dead man, Mrs. Charles A. Poole, who had a girl baby the day after her husband was butchered, now declares that he never beat or kicked her as alleged.

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Important for Uncle Sam is the fact that his laws no longer seem to satisfy his people. Masked murderers of the "Black Legion" cast aside criminal law, and commit murder in the name of "justice." Eminently respectable gentlemen in Washington cast aside fundamental law, the Constitution, threatening to rewrite it, make it "up-to-date."

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Between the gutter and the Capitol at Washington, Uncle Sam has several problems.

New York Daily Mirror

MAY 25 1936

# LAW PURSUES MYSTIC NIGHT RIDERS OF BLACK LEGION

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
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Mr. Edwards
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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
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Mr. Lester
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Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7391-A

PRISON GUARD DICE HAWLEY

After Paul Every was flogged to death last April police started an investigation into the crime. Hawley, a prison guard and co-worker of the flogging victim, was questioned. State police now believe Every was killed by members of the Black Legion.

Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Tracy

# LAW VS. LYNCH

IN FLORIDA a Polk County jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnaping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims.

In Louisiana a Federal court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a Negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead boy's parents in Arkansas the trial fell under Federal jurisdiction.

But these triumphs of law, encouraging as they are, do not cancel the other side of the picture.

Lawlessness, masquerading as super-patriotism, is brought to light in Michigan. The Black Legion, a terroristic secret society professing allegiance to the Constitution but conducting an undercover campaign of race hatred and religious intolerence, is caught red-handed in the mob murder of a young WPA worker. State police investigate tips that this vigilante organization also was responsible for many other "purification" murders which were disguised as suicides.

There is ample justification—yea, necessity—for an expansion of the Federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnaping. In the last 54 years, lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, there have been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

SEPH

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson ✓
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Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
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Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
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Mr. Tracy ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

The Hartford Times
June 16, 1936
Forwarded by New York Office

61-7398-A

# The Lure of Secret Societies in United States

*BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.*

Once again there has appeared upon the American scene a secret society which has, in some localities, adopted terrorism as a political and social policy. Being a secret society, no one knows how extensive the membership of the Black Legion may be or in how many communities it is organized. The outstanding fact, however, is that such an organization does exist within the United States but not of the United States, within local communities but not of them. The secret order's existence is apart from the political and social organizations of the communities. They are excluded.

The desire of mankind to organize secret societies is wellnigh universal and is older than history. A philosophical psychologist could write a moving essay on this impulse. It exists in the child in point of years and in the child in point of historical evolution. A part of the play of children has always been secret organizations with mystic passwords and countersigns, and before the dawn of civilization primitive peoples had the same urge.

The Black Legion is but a manifestation of this ancient social principle. Various types of secret organizations have existed with widely different purposes. The high school and college fraternity may be regarded as wholly social, while the order of Freemasons is largely religious, with added social and eleemosynary features.

The Black Legion appears to resemble the Ku Klux Klan rather more than any other American organization of a secret nature. The original Klan was organized in the reconstruction days at the close of the Civil War in an effort to bring order out of the chaotic political and social conditions which the disturbed times had created. As they were taking the law into their own hands and also because of the desirability of vesting their actions in an air of mystery, they appeared disguised in striking costumes, their features covered in hoods. That these secret night riders performed a valuable service is recognized by historians. That some serious offenses were committed by some of them, under the cloak of the order's secrecy, has to be admitted.

Mention also should be made of the Vigilantes, especially those who operated in San Francisco in the hectic period following the discovery of gold. They were not a secret order in quite the same sense and they did not invariably mask. They resembled secret orders, however, in that their operations were swift and without warning. It is especially interesting to recall that the last operation of Vigilantes took place in New Orleans in 1891. A Vigilance Committee took from the jail a group of Italians believed guilty of murder and understood to be members of the famous secret order, the Mafia, and lynched them.

* * * *

The Mafia came into existence [illegible] at the time of the Napoleonic wars. It became a secret society of the utmost danger. The members were opposed to the police and to all measures for the enforcement of public order. They preyed upon land owners, merchants and any other likely victims. An attempt was made to establish the order in the United States, and this led to the action at New Orleans. The Mafia had murdered Chief of Police Hennessy.

Another Italian secret society was the Camorra, which first became known about 1820 in Naples. The members were criminals who worked singly and in gangs. The order had a secret language and system of signals. Taking part in politics, the Camorra became dominant for a period, terrorizing the whole country. Princes and persons of high station became members, often, it is said, because they were forced to to escape attack. It has been reported that individuals have been forced, in much the same manner, to join the Black Legion in this country. The Camorra was finally stamped out in 1911, but the Mafia continued to exist in secret until the Fascist regime took charge, following the World War. It is probable that there are still skeleton organizations which maintain the deepest secrecy as to their existence and which hope to re-establish themselves after a change in political conditions in Italy.

Africa is notable for the number of its secret societies among the natives. Not only in the Kongo, but in other sections of the Dark Continent, secret orders have been in existence from the earliest times. They usually have some religious connection, but not always. For example, the Human Leopard Society—as the name is translated into English—is an organization of cannibals. There seems to be and to have been no people immune from the impulse to organize secret societies. Although there were never more than 3,000,000 Indians in North America at any one time, with, therefore, no problem of crowding or domination of congested regions, they had their secret societies.

* * * *

The secret society with the larg[illegible] membership in the world is Chine[illegible] It is the Hung, or Triad Society, a[illegible] has been in existence for 1,500 yea[illegible] This organization was founded in A[illegible] 386 by a Buddhist patriarch named E[illegible] It appears that, originally, the chief pu[illegible]pose of the organization was to spre[illegible] the Buddhist doctrine. It changed fro[illegible] being primarily a religious to a sem[illegible] political organization because of t[illegible] effort of Chinese Emperors to stamp [illegible] out. When a secret order is well estab[illegible]lished, and especially when its membe[illegible]ship conceives that a religious side [illegible] present, as well as social or politic[illegible] interests, eradication becames practi[illegible]cally impossible.

The effect of the persecution of th[illegible] Triad Society was to intensify its secrec[illegible] with mystic rites of great solemnity [illegible] Authorities say that there is a fascinat[illegible]ng analogy between the Buddhist-Tao[illegible]ist rites employed by the Triad and those described in the Egyptian "Book of the Dead." Moreover, it is stated, there is a close connection between both the Chinese and the Egyptian rituals and portions of the ritual of Occidental Freemasonry.

It is probable that the impulse to organize and to join secret societies springs from an inferiority complex. The individual does not feel strong enough in his own personality to accomplish what he desires. He feels that, in addition to being illegal, some of his exploits would appear ridiculous. To throw the mantle of a mysterious secret society about himself and those with whom he is joined seems, temporarily at least, to put a different aspect on the matter.

Just as the child at play puts on a false face and feels quite important when he jumps from behind a door and cries "boo" at some one, so the member of the type of Ku Klux Klan which was organized after the World War and took part in politics, as well as pranks, or the member of the Black Legion, feels that he is not like other men. He can patronize entire communities because he knows the mumbo-jumbo of passwords and countersigns and, while cloaking his own real identity, can bring terror to persons who are not of the elect.

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Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Leith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trac[illegible]
Miss Gandy

JOSEPH

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WASH. STAR

JUN 14 1936

# The Greatest Show On Earth

*By Frank Miller Smith*

**THE BLACK MENACE**

Traveling incognito Representative Samuel Dickstein has toured several cities for Black Legion clues. He has just returned to the Capitol, determined more than ever to push for a Congressional investigation. He goes before the Rules Committee next week.

Asked if he came into personal contact with any of them or if he had been warned to lay off he said:

"No, but it might happen any day. I didn't let them know I was around. They are a bad lot. A black menace.

"I am receiving thousands of appeals daily by letter and telegram to get at the bottom of this thing and save the country from this organization."

Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gandy

61-7398-A

JUN 12 1939

# Boys' Junior 'Black Legion' Copies Tortures of Elders

## Youths' Actions Clear Exemplification of Real Viciousness of This Type of Mob Violence, Says Rabbi Israel

By RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL

INTERMINGLED with the various news items concerning the infamous "Black Legion" was one which interested me enormously. It told of a group of adolescent boys who organized a Junior "Black Legion." They proceeded, in emulation of their elders, to hand out rough treatment to those who had the ill-fortune to incur their wrath. The chief object of their persecution was a youngster who was tortured almost to death "because he made too good marks in school."

Here, in the actions of the Junior "Black Legion" we have a clear exemplification of the real viciousness of this type of mob violence. Perhaps it is but another instance of truth becoming apparent thru fools and children. At any rate, it brings the secret psychological explanation into the open. Ku Klux Klans and Black Legions represent the resentment of mediocrity against anything or anyone who dares to stand out above the level of the mob. If the Junior Black Legion vents its wrath upon the boy who makes a good scholastic record, it is only perpetrating a counterpart of the elders' opposition to individuals or minorities who have the courage to be different.

Rabbi Israel

### CURIOUS PARADOX

The curious paradox of mob reactions is the greatest menace to the success of democracy. The crowd is subject to the conflicting emotions of admiration and envy. It loves to extol the leader and then to tear him down. Something in it glories in the admiration of exceptional qualities, but, unable to maintain the high standard required by spontaneous appreciation of excellence, it must show its resentment by destroying the very person or thing it has elected to appreciate. Witness how in New York City no reform administration has ever been re-elected to public office. And the same thing is true in smaller communities.

The Black Legion represents this destructive ~~projection~~ by the mob of its own low mediocrity.

The mob hates minorities like Jews and Catholics in America, not because of whatever faults characterize Jews and Catholics, but because their individuality represents a certain strength of character which the mob can tolerate no more than the Junior Black Legion could tolerate the boy who made good marks in school. The later arguments which grow up concerning the faults of minorities are in reality only rationalizations by which the mob tries to build a moral defense for its immoral conduct. It is the finer side of mob psychology rising to plague the "Black Legion" side.

### ONE REDEEMING QUALITY

And yet, that very attempt to rationalize in justification of its viciousness is the mob's one redeeming quality. It is the one hope on which democracy can build. If Ku Klux Klans and their kind merely attacked Jews and Catholics with no effort at justification for their viciousness, we could begin to sound the death knell of what little civilization men have toiled to build. But when these mobs try to defend their barbarism by accusations of "Jewish mercenariness" or "Catholic plots at domination," their very ridiculous allegations show that somewhere a conscience is at work, urging viciousness to set up a seeming moral defense.

When a conscience is present at all, even in a distorted form, there is hope that sooner or later it will triumph over the hypocrisy which it curiously reveals. There is enough evidence in the record of man's long and tedious story to warrant some faith in this assumption. Let's hope it's true for America—and that this truth will become evident before Fascism makes the mob's contrition impossible.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Nelson
Mr. Baughm
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clogg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edward
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxwort
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm

WASH. NEWS
JUN 11 1936

61-7598-A

## INVESTIGATION NEEDED

Although the most overt activities of the Black Legion, an outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan, seem to have been confined to Michigan, it probably has agents in several other states. Certainly its criminal exploitation of racial and religious animosities has implications which are of national concern. Judge Ralph W. Liddy summarized the situation in his statement holding thirteen members of the Black Legion for the kidnaping and murder of a WPA worker. He said: "This is a very sinister spectacle of an organized group attempting to usurp the function of government for what it considered an offense."

The efforts of the Michigan authorities to expose the secrets of the Black Legion and to bring the murderers of young Charles A. Poole to justice have so far been commendably aggressive. But every such local inquiry is bound to be hampered by pressure to suppress some of the facts. There are indications that several Michigan officeholders have not been above using the Legion for political purposes. They cannot be expected to aid in the exposure of it.

Beyond the murder of the Poole youth, which Michigan will apparently attend to with appropriate vigor, there is the larger question of the extent of organized and commercialized bigotry in the United States. This can be discovered only by a national agency. Congress should adopt the Benson resolution for a thorough-going probe of the Black Legion.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Toman
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Gandy

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Boston Herald
1/10/36

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C O P Y

WCNS 79

Add Black Legion, Pontiac

Judge Hartrick speculated upon the possibility that the black legion contemplated nation-wide revolution for the 16th of this month. Indictments two weeks ago charged that Brigadier-General Virgil F. Effinger, reputed national commander, had conspired with the others to take over government buildings and arsenals on that date.

"Was there to be a rebellion against the government, or was that the date of a contemplated communist revolution in America which the Black Legion would be mobilized to combat?"

The court offered no proof to strengthen this speculation.

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C O P Y

WCNS 39

Pontiac, Mich.--Sixty-four high officials of city, county and state government have been or are members of the vigilante Black Legion in Oakland county, the one man grand jury investigating the subversive organization reported today.

Included in the list made public by circuit Judge George B. Hartrick, were Oakland county prosecutor David C. Pence, State Representative Joseph A. Long and Police Chief Alfred L. Reynolds of Royal Oak, the city in which Father Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower is located.

WCNS 43- ADD BLACK LEGION

The lengthy report climaxing Judge Hartrick's three months investigation of the night riding order, recommended no criminal action against any of those named.

"By virtue of the belief that the public is entitled to know who are its county and city officials and whom it employes with its tax moneys, these names are divulged," the report said. "Whatever disposition is made of them is a matter for responsible officials and the electorate to decide.

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# Black Legion Murders Are Cases for Federal Action

## WORKERS MUST INSIST ON NO END TO INQUIRY UNTIL BACKERS OF THE TERROR BANDS ARE EXPOSED WITH THEIR KILLERS

SLIMY Black Legion terrorists honeycomb Michigan's public officialdom.

Sixty-four state, county and local officials have been unearthed as participants in this sadistic fascist conspiracy.

Sixty-four—from the Pontiac section alone. Sixty-four—including a State Representative, the sheriff's force, chiefs of police and the prosecuting attorney of the Pontiac region. Sixty-four men, in public positions "for the enforcement of the law," swearing secretly to join in the murder of Jews, Catholics, Negroes, Communists and labor organizers, their reputed "enemies."

***From what county do these revolting revelations come? From Oakland County, controlled in an iron grip by the Morgan-duPont-General Motors Corporation. In that county public officials have certainly needed the blessing of the Morgan-duPont combine if they meant to continue in office.***

It is from that county also that the pro-fascist Father Coughlin broadcasts his radio addresses—but not against the Black Legion. Catholics are attacked, but he pays no heed. Significantly, on the other hand, he allies himself with Gerald L. K. Smith, who has openly announced the same program as the Black Legion has attempted to put into effect. That is a program against the Catholic masses as well as against Communists. Coughlin shouts for a war with Mexico, in the name of the Catholics; but he joins hands with those who are plotting attacks on Catholics here and now, in our own country.

What has the capitalist press to say to these Michigan revelations? That press has become strangely silent. The Black Legion reports have faded into the back pages. No editorials appear, demanding a rooting out of this widespread terroristic gang. No surprise is denced and no anger expressed at the astounding

Daily Worker 9-4-36

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that the entire "law enforcement" agencies of Michigan are so corroded and rotten.

What a contrast would there be were this the kidnaping of one rich man! The front pages would blaze with the story. The G-men would be shouted at to act. The entire Federal man-hunting machinery, under pressure of the press, would set itself into action.

The capitalist press remains silent. But the workers and the mass of the American people cannot let it go at that. There can be no letting up on this Black Legion fight, until this gang is wiped out in its entirety. There can be no cessation of activity, until the higher-ups—the backers and inciters of this foul conspiracy—are brought to light.

What can the workers and the liberty-loving people of America do, to stamp out this outfit organized for murder and for arson?

***They can insist that the Department of Justice hunt out these murderers.*** It is a real reflection on the entire negligence of the Federal government, that the chief man-killer, V. F. Ettinger of Lima, Ohio, has been allowed to disappear. Indicted in Michigan, he has simply faded from the scene.

***If the Department of Justice will not do the job that it should do, then let the LaFollette Committee act.*** From the American people there should come a torrent of letters, wires and resolutions pressing such a move upon the LaFollette Committee. It has been formed to investigate violations of industrial civil liberty. Here is a startling example of precisely such a violation: flagrant, challenging, vicious.

In one sentence: THIS ORGANIZED DEGENERACY—THE BLACK LEGION—HAS CARRIED MURDER AND ARSON ACROSS STATE LINES. IT HAS CONDUCTED A NATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST LABOR AND MINORITY GROUPS. LET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROCEED TO ACT AGAINST THIS EVIL, NATIONALLY.

Daily Worker
9-4-36

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Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# WOMAN HELPS TRAP EXTORT PLOT SUSPECT

A note written in Hungarian and signed "The Black Legion," demanding $500 from Mrs. Margaret Clark, writer, of 319 W. 95th st., and threatening the kidnaping of Mrs. Clark's daughter, 7, was held by police today as evidence against an unemployed baker.

Steve Audressy, 22, was locked up today, accused of attempted extortion, following his arrest at 77th st. and York ave., the heart of New York's "Little Hungary," where he is alleged to have made a rendezvous with Mrs. Clark.

## RECEIVES LETTER.

The letter was received by Mrs. Clark, whose husband, Gilbert Clark, represents several Canadian newspapers in this country, early yesterday, when it was slipped under the door of her apartment on the ground floor.

Mrs. Clark, who has traveled considerably, understands Hungarian and was enabled to read the note which directed that she collect the money in $5, $10 and $20 bills and take it in the cab of a designated company to the rendevous at 10 p. m.

## IN POLICE CAB.

The note directed the money be given to a man who used the word "Suzy" as a password. By arrangement with the cab company, a policeman in cab uniform, Detective James Connor, drove Mrs. Clark to the place of meeting.

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL
Forwarded by New York Office
SEP 15 1936

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And now Dayton Dean, self-confessed trigger man of the fourteen Black Legionites now on trial, tells that six of his colleagues went out hunting one night and killed a Negro, "just for the hell of it."

It has been shown that Michigan authorities, because of their political tie-up with Black Legion officers, are unable to act effectively against this Fascist band. So defense organizations submitted facts to Attorney General Cummings in Washington, showing that no less than six federal laws make it mandatory for the Department of Justice at least to investigate. But the federal authorities still take dictation from political expediency. The Attorney General replied:

"Please be advised that after a careful and thorough analysis of the facts and law set forth in the submitted memorandum, the conclusion is reached that no sufficient factual or legal basis is shown thereby which would justify the Federal Government in assuming investigative jurisdiction of the Black Legion activities therein outlined."

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The Fight against War and Fascism (American League against War and Fascism) September 1936.

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## The Black Legion Convictions.

Conviction of seven members of the Black Legion for first-degree murder and four others for second-degree murder in the sensational trial that has just concluded in Detroit should go a long way toward smashing this notorious secret terrorist society. Fifteen cases against other members, involving floggings, arson, murder conspiracies and plots to seize public buildings, are still pending.

There is no place for such a group in any State in which law and order are supposed to prevail, and above all in a democracy. Yet the Black Legion's rapid growth and apparent success, for a time—reminiscent on a small scale of the huge power seized by its spiritual predecessor, the Ku-Klux Klan—are an indication of the large number of people who can be organized into such bands to attempt to carry out fanatical programs. Prompt and unrelenting enforcement of our criminal laws is the most certain means in the hands of the people to stamp out such groups whose leaders are aiming to be unofficial dictators in their communities.

BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE
Forwarded by New York Office
OCT 1 - 1936

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## Doom for the Black Legion

Eleven men who took part in the murder in Michigan of Charles A. Poole, falsely accused of beating his wife, were found guilty of murder in the United States Circuit Court in Detroit on Tuesday. Seven, convicted in the first degree, face mandatory sentences of life imprisonment; four others are subject to varying terms as second-degree murderers. Thus, it may well be believed, collapses the last remnant of that incredible association of the criminal and the dull-witted which at one time was supposed to have a membership of 135,000.

Many public officials were carried on its books, and police officials, deputy sheriffs and other law-enforcement agents were found to be allied with practitioners of murder, flogging, kidnaping, arson and other furtive and cowardly crimes. The Black Legion inspired such terror, by reason of its apparent immunity, that in many communities there was reluctance to prosecute those who were known to be active agents. It was not until the particularly callous killing of Poole aroused public indignation that witnesses found the courage to come forward and tell what they knew.

The Black Legion was organized for the purpose of intimidating and oppressing Catholics, Jews and Negroes. As usual with such degraded conspiracies, private malice also directed its activities against persons not included in any of those categories. At one time fifty-seven persons, in Michigan alone, were arrested in connection with unsolved crimes of varying atrocity. Seemingly there was no depth to which the legion was not willing to descend. A chemist employed by the City of Detroit was asked if he would be willing to supply typhoid germs to be placed in milk sold to individuals who were obnoxious to the hooded assassins. He refused to assist in the murder plot, but seemingly did not report the proposal to his superiors. When it became known he was dismissed.

A witness testified that "Colonel" Davis, ringleader in the murder, one of those convicted, in the first degree, at one time caused the shooting of an unoffending Negro to amuse himself. A succession of similar, and even worse offenses which came to light as it became evident that the legion's power was gone stirred public indignation. It was determined to destroy the criminal conspiracy which had become so widespread that it included plots to overthrow the Federal government. Prosecutions were begun and energetically pressed. Witnesses who had feared to tell what they knew were eager to make terms with the authorities, and soon no one who had held a place of power in the legion was safe from denunciation. The end of a strange and particularly evil manifestation of the mob spirit plainly has arrived.

N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE
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OCT 1 - 1936

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You don't have to be an Anarchist or a Communist to oppose a vicious oath like this.

Brutal killings have been charged to this pernicious organization.

Bombings are said to have been carried on by it.

Other anti-social activities directed against groups imagined to be opposed to Black Legion principles were executed without regard for human life.

It must be apparent enough to Sergt. Dear himself, on the basis of such evidence, that he is unfit to hold any position in the Police Division. Perhaps, as Chief Allen suggests, a mental disorder has been partly responsible. But that does not alter materially the facts of the case.

Dismissal should be immediate.

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# TOLEDO COPS FACE BLACK KLAN PROBE

## Officer Admits Membership in Legion of America—Three Other Inquiries On

TOLEDO, Oct. 7 (AP).—John A. Carey, vice mayor, today said that legislation authorizing an investigation into possible connections of city employees with the Black Legion will be introduced in City Council Monday.

The legislation will ask authorization to subpena witnesses and records.

Carey, who asked the city clerk's office to draft the bill, said the move was prompted by the admission of Lyman Dear, sergeant in charge of the police arsenal, that he had been a brigadier general in the Legion of America.

The Lucas County prosecutor's office already has begun a probe and Michigan authorities are conducting a private investigation.

**LaFollette Aides at Work**

The LaFollette Senate investigating committee has three representatives here checking recent bombings of Communist meetings.

Investigators of the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Wayne County (Detroit) sheriff's office, conferred with Inspector Joseph Fruchey of the Toledo police.

The Michigan officials said they are interested in learning whether Virgil Effinger of Lima, Ohio, wanted in Detroit in connection with the Legion inquiry there, was ever active in Toledo.

Francis Murphy, secretary of the American League Against War and Fascism, in an affidavit filed with City Council, charged members of the police department with Black Legion connections. The inquiry is to determine if the Legion of America and the Black Legion are related.

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office
OCT 7 - 1936

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News-Bee
Toledo, Ohio

DATE OCT 7 - 1936

# THE BULLET FRATERNITY

RESPONSIBILITY for investigation into Toledo activities of the Black Legion cannot end with a police chief's admonition to one of his men, found to have been a Black Legionnaire, to "go home and forget your troubles."

The police and the prosecutor's office, with the wedge they already have, must get the answer to the question:

"How far was Black Legion membership extended in Toledo, who are its other leaders and what have been its activities?"

Eleven men stand convicted in Detroit for the Black Legion murder of a man. So far as is known there have been no deaths or pogroms of torture in the Toledo area. But the mere existence of such a vicious organization is cause for concern, we believe, and it is the duty of public officials to do an efficient job of smoking out the membership here.

Yesterday a City Street Department employe told a hearing in Service Director Schoonmaker's office:

"I will say this: I know a great many people who belong to it; in fact, I know a great many of their chiefs."

So what?

Is someone going to find out who the "great many people" are?

Did Police Chief Allen get from Sergt. Lyman Dear, who admitted he was a Black Legion member, the names of any others? Certainly he should have, or should have tried.

Today Chief Allen has gone to a police convention in Columbus. Certainly Ray Allen ought to know better than that. He ought to stay here and follow through at once on rooting this terrorist gang out of the Police Department, and out of Toledo.

Let's not forget this is the same organization which plotted a Detroit killing in which 11 men were convicted, an organization against which bombings, torturings and other crimes have been charged. And let's not have anything that looks at all like a "cover-up."

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TOLEDO NEWS BEE 10/9/36

# POLICEMAN TELLS OF LEADING CULT

## 'Buck' Dear Admits Being 'General'; Denies Giving Guns to Black Legion Members

Sergt. Lyman G. (Buck) Dear, custodian of the Police Department arsenal, admitted today that he formerly was brigadier general in the Black Legion.

His admission came as he was questioned by Police Chief Ray E. Allen and Detective Inspector Joseph Fruchey on charges made to City Council yesterday afternoon that Dear had supplied pistols to Toledo members of the Legion.

Under questioning by Chief Allen, Dear said:

**ONE:** That he was active as a brigadier-general in the legion until December, 1935.

**Two:** That last March he was "suspended and demoted" for non-activity following a difference with the Black Legion high command over policies.

**THREE:** That he never had sold any pistols to members of his section of the legion.

**"Don't Trust Me With Gun."**

While the hearing was going on, Dear babbled at length about not being able to "trust myself with a pistol" and pleaded with the chief to "take the pistol I have that belongs to the Police Department so that if anything happens no department gun will be involved."

Chief Allen heard Dear's entire story and then sent him home on sick leave.

He advised Dear to "go home and forget your troubles" and told him that if he later desires to seek retirement on pension, he would have the chief's full support. Chief Allen said after the hearing that he believes Dear will retire.

The chief excused Dear's conduct by saying that he is "a man easily led" and that he has not been right mentally since he was seriously injured Sept. 13, 1929, when a police car he was driving crashed into a train at Manhattan Boulevard and the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks.

He is convinced, Chief Allen said, that no other member of the Police Department other than Dear has been a member of the Black Legion.

In addition to the accusations against Dear, the charges presented to Council included the following:

**ONE:** That Vic Roe, 1943 Superior Street, employe of the City Street Department, was a ringleader in the Black Legion.

**TWO:** That a "violence committee" has been formed in Toledo and meets every Monday night in the Richardson Building, the membership already having reached 500.

Roe is to appear for questioning at 4 p. m. today before Service Director George N. Schoonmaker, his superior.

Developments resulting from these charges, in addition to the

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of the Black Legion. Mr. Edy said Mr. Roe admitted his membership in the organization.

Mr. Edy said that in fairness to all the city employes who have, or may be called to his office, the mere fact they are summoned should not be interpreted that they are members of the Black Legion.

"We are calling everyone whom we believe may give us some leads in the matter," he said. Mr. Edy said at least three more city employes, not members of the police department, will be questioned today.

Mr. Brown, reputed commander of the Black Legion here, was brought to Mr. Edy's office shortly before 5 p. m. and was questioned until after 6:30 p. m. Mr. Rhinefort said he admitted his connection with the organization.

**Details Secret**

The assistant prosecutor declined to reveal details of the information from Mr. Brown and the others but indicated it would be used, along with other information he has obtained, as the basis for a complete investigation of the organization by the grand jury.

City Manager Edy said he would continue today his questioning of city employes, whose names are linked with the organization, and will render a decision shortly about Mr. Roe and any other employes who may be implicated.

Mr. Edy said he is desirous of finding out the exact objectives of the local organization, and whether they were the same as the Black Legion in Michigan.

The meeting in Mr. Edy's office, called shortly after he returned yestrday from a shortened vacation trip, was attended by Mr. Rhinefort, Mayor Roy C. Start, Vice Mayor John Q. Carey, Councilman Edward DeAngelo, Service Director George N. Schoonmaker and Detective Inspector Joseph Fruchey.

**Joined At Trilby**

Patrolman Bokan was the first person summoned, Mr. Gilbert was second. He was followed by Pat Lavender, Mr. Roe and Mr. Brown. Patrolman Bokan told reporters he had informed the city officials he never had been a member of the Black Legion.

Mr. Gilbert made a declaration and said he was called because he is Mr. Roe's boss in the street department. Mr. Lavender declined to make any comment. Mr. Roe talked freely of his connection with the organization and revealed he had been initiated at a meeting in the Trilby fire engine house in 1934.

Mr. Roe said he decided to admit his affiliation with the organization on advice of his wife, after first telling his superior, Service Director Schoonmaker, he had not been a member.

Following his questioning, Mr. Roe left for his home and returned later with letters, dealing with Black Legion activities, which he gave to the assistant prosecutor. Mr. Roe said he was first advanced to a colonel, and later named brigadier general. He was removed some time ago as brigadier general by Virgil Efflinger, of Lima, leader of the state organization, he said, because of "lack of activity."

**Examination Disclosed**

City Manager Edy said he may ask a local brain specialist to examine Police Sergt. Lyman (Buck) Dear, who admitted last Tuesday he had been a brigadier general in the Black Legion, and who is confined to his home.

A letter from Dr. Max Peet, brain specialist at the university hospital, Ann Arbor, stating Sergeant Dear is mentally unsound was received yesterday at the office of Police Chief Allen. Dr. Peet examined Sergeant Dear at Ann Arbor, Wednesday. He said he first examined Sergeant Dear 16 months ago and that he is suffering from a brain disease, resulting from an accident.

Deputy sheriffs yesterday reported they were unable to locate Bert Rickard, 832 Oakwood avenue, wanted for questioning, and inquiries at his home revealed he was on a hunting trip in Michigan.

**Dean Names Toledoans**

Local authorities are considerably interested in the story related in Detroit yesterday by Dean, confessed trigger man for the Black Legion there, about his knowledge of the Toledo set-up, and his identification of six Toledoans, including two policemen, as individuals who had attended Black Legion meetings in Toledo at which he was present.

Dean yesterday received life sentence for murder from a circuit judge in Detroit who called Dean's victim, a WPA worker, "a martyr to the cause of civil and religious liberties." Dean had pleaded guilty to shooting Charles A. Poole, a young WPA worker, on order of a Black Legion superior officer.

Seven other Black Legion members who were convicted of the Poole killing will receive mandatory life sentences today in Detroit. Four convicted of second degree murder will be sentenced tomorrow.

**Given Dismissal**

Francis Murphy, secretary of the Toledo chapter of the League Against War and Fascism, whose presentation to city council last Monday of an affidavit naming Sergeant Dear as a member of the Black Legion, resulted in the present investigation, yesterday was dismissed as a WPA recreation project worker.

His dismissal, along with three other officers of Local 463, American Federation of Teachers, from the WPA, brought an immediate protest from organized labor leaders. The others removed are Calhoun Cartwright, president of the union; Samuel Pollock, executive secretary, and Arthur Preis, legislative agent. Mr. Pollock and Mr. Preis have been active in demanding a grand jury investigation of recent tear gas bombings here and the possible connection of the Black Legion with the bombings.

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# 5,000 AT ONE LEGION RALLY

## 3 Elected Officers Belonged, Former Member Says

The Black Legion had five regiments in the Toledo district last fall and the members pledged allegiance in the presence of guns.

This was revealed last night by Charles Hill, of 730 Kipling drive, a self-admitted former adjutant, after he had been questioned by Joel Rhinefort, assistant county prosecutor. The regiments were in Point Place, Maumee and the south, west and east sections of the city, he said.

Mr. Hill was questioned in Mr. Rhinefort's private office in the Edison building, where he was brought by a police officer. Mr. Hill also said that at one time three elected officials were members of the organization, and that 5,000 persons attended one meeting on a farm outside the city.

Mr. Hill refused to give the names of any members, saying he had to observe his oath of silence. He also declined to say whether the elected officers, to whom he referred, still were holding office.

### Effinger at Toledo Meetings

As adjutant, Mr. Hill said he had exchanged several letters with Virgil Effinger, of Lima, leader of the Black Legion in Ohio. He also stated Mr. Effinger has been in Toledo several times.

Mr. Hill said the organization was anti-alien, anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic and anti-Communist. He said he and Police Sergt. Lyman (Buck) Dear quit the order at the same time, because of differences with leaders over reorganization matters.

After questioning Mr. Hill, Mr. Rhinefort last night conferred with a representative of the attorney general of Michigan.

Several additional Toledoans, including three city employes, will be questioned today about their connections with Black Legion activities here as a result of information obtained by city and county officials during the questioning of five men in the office of City Manager John N. Edy yesterday.

This announcement was made late yesterday by Mr. Rhinefort after he completed questioning of Clarence G. Brown, 1810 Mansfield road, whom he identified as "head man" of the Black Legion in the Toledo district.

### May Question Dean

Mr. Rhinefort said he also may go to Detroit today to question Dayton Dean, talkative two - gun killer, whose lurid disclosures of Black Legion terrorism resulted in the conviction of 11 Michigan members on murder charges, and who yesterday indicated he had considerable knowledge of the Black Legion affairs in Toledo.

In addition to Mr. Brown, these men were questioned in Mr. Edy's office yesterday:

**Victor Roe, a street department worker, who admitted he had been a brigadier general in the Black Legion.**

**Steve Gilbert, foreman of the street department.**

**Patrolman Joseph Bokan, turnkey at the Safety building.**

**Pat Lavender, foreman of the street department shops.**

Assistant Prosecutor Rhinefort said Walter Leiter, 1635 Oakwood avenue, who was brought to the manager offices by Detective Harry Manson at the same time as Mr. Brown, would be questioned in the prosecutor's office today. Mr. Leiter said he is a WPA worker, but knew nothing of the activities of the Black Legion, and could not understand why they desired to question him.

### Three Deny Membership

City Manager Edy said Gilbert, Lavender and Patrolman Bokan denied they are or had been members

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News-Bee
Toledo, Ohio

DATE OCT 8 1936

OCT 10 1936

## Editor's Page

THE Black Legion is the latest "stiff neck" to hit our community. It is difficult for the thinking man to properly appraise its importance, its extent, or danger. Beyond question, the character of the organization and its moronic personnel, is offensive both to the sense of smell and to our American institutions. Cloaking itself with the pretense of preserving the very institutions it flouts, the organization appears to have made great strides.

Ordinarily we could safely ignore its importance as a mere anti-climax of the infamous Ku Klux Klan for the reason that as long as the majority of our people are well advised and possessed of an intelligence beyond that of a spoiled child, we have very little to fear from "nut houses" and "nut organizations."

However, what does cause great and grave concern, is the fact that day by day new revelations of associations involving men in public office and in the law enforcement branches with this "cracked-brain" outfit is being called to our attention. When it is considered that the great mass of law-abiding citizenry repose in peaceful slumber in complete and total reliance that our duly elected and appointed officials and guardians of the peace will protect us, it becomes a matter of serious consequence that these same guardians of our safety are stalking us and waiting to betray their trust.

It is unfortunate that members of our Police Department should be involved for the reason that it casts reflections and suspicions upon the entire force—but we must consider that we exact very little from applicants for police duty except a strong back.

Let us not become too excited or panicky about the matter, but at the same time let us not hesitate to fully investigate the situation. It might also be a good idea to alter our system of selecting policemen. Offer better pay to attract well-educated men, then train them to gather the proper kind of evidence. Why not patterns local departments after the Department of Justice in Washington? For Honest and Better Protection.

61-9310-A

86

# TERRORIST OUTFIT FOUND IN STREET

## Los Angeles Police Hunt Black Legion Member.

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14 (A. P.).—Discovery of a black hooded gown with a skull and cross bones on the left chest, in a suitcase on Wilshire Boulevard, spurred police search today for Black Legionnaires believed operating in southern California.

Capt. William Hynes of the police anti-Radical Squad disclosed that activities of the hooded order had been reported here for the last four months, increasing recently.

"The Black Legion will not be tolerated," he said.

Found with the gown by two cruising radio patrolmen were a series of notes to "brothers" and clippings from Detroit papers on the trial of cult leaders there.

All the notes were mimeographed on white paper of a standard size. They gave notice of meetings, advised "arms" and warned against talking too much.

A final one said:

"Everything off until further notice. Do not communicate with brothers. Detroit affair very bad. Will notify when coast is clear."

A label on other clothing in the suitcase bore a Los Angeles store's name. The gown itself showed signs of use, and had been patched in several places.

While admitting the possibility the bag may have been lost or abandoned by a Detroit Black Legion official, here to escape the Michigan inquiry, detectives were inclined to believe it belonged to a Los Angeles cultist.

All cleaning and laundry numbers had been torn off.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Tamm
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Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Handy

NEW YORK SUN
Forwarded by Mr. Tamm
OCT 14 1936

61-7375 and A

87

EXCERPT FROM THE DETROIT NEWS OCTOBER 14, 1936

# West Traces Black Legion

## Robes and Notes Found in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14.—(U.P.)—Los Angeles police opened an investigation of "Black Legion" activities in Southern California today following accidental discovery of an abandoned suitcase containing what were described as robes of the secret organization.

The paraphernalia of the "legion" was discovered by two radio patrolmen as they were cruising in their automobile through the exclusive Wilshire district near a hotel frequented by motion picture celebrities.

The officers, R. F. McGarry and W. A. Ellenson, found in the suitcase an outfit of robes and messages advising "brothers" of a new meeting place and warning them to come armed.

The evidence was turned over to Police Capt. William Hynes who reported the robes were replicas of those seized in Detroit during the last year.

The robes were of black satin and had a white skull and crossbones over the heart. The black hoods had eyeholes cut through. A suit of clothes with a Los Angeles clothier's label in it was also in the suitcase, police said.

### TRACES LEGION

Capt. Hynes reported his special investigators had discovered some evidence pointing towards "Black Legion" activities here during the last few months.

"Our investigation discloses that the legion is in existence in this area, the membership is confined to not more than 100 persons who have managed to keep their meetings and activities secret," he said.

Three notes were in the suitcase. One read:

"Dear brother, 17 houses north same side of the street as old meeting place, Friday meeting important, arms and robes. Acknowledge."

A second message advised members to halt activities until public indignation over the "Detroit affair" died down. It read:

"Dear brother, everything off until further notice. Do not communicate with brothers. Detroit affair very bad. Will notify when coast is clear."

### SIGNED BY GAY

The third note read:

"Dead brother, matter handled at last meeting safe but do not talk to inquiring visitors. No meeting until further notice."

Each of the messages was signed "Gay." The notes were typewritten on white mimeograph paper.

Two clippings from Detroit newspapers were in the suit case, both dealing with the investigation there of the Black Legion following the death of Charles Poore, WPA worker slain by members of the legion.

61-7598.1.1

EXCERPT FROM THE DETROIT TIMES OCTOBER 14, 1936

# Handbag Tip To Cultists On Coast

International News Service Wire

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14.—Police were seeking a Black Legion headquarters here today after a ceremonial robe, bearing a skull and crossbones, literature and a letter instructing a "brother" to "come armed" were found in an apparently misplaced handbag in front of a fashionable hotel.

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## ~~Black~~ Legion Scare Film Publicity Scheme

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15 (A. P.).—A skull-and-crossbones robe, which created a Black Legion scare in Los Angeles, was branded a film press agent's scheme, by an angry police officer today.

"It was only a press agent's hoax and a despicable one," said Capt. William F. Hynes of the Police Intelligence Bureau.

His detectives, he said, compared the black hooded garment, found in a suitcase near a Wilshire Boulevard hotel Tuesday, with the costumes used in three current motion pictures based on Black Legion terrorism and found they matched.

NEW YORK CITY
Forwarded by Special Delivery
OCT 15 1936

61-7348 Enl 4

90

# Black Legion Note Found in Slaying

San Luis Obispo, Calif., Oct. 20 (U.P.).—Possibility of a Black Legion slaying was investigated by police today in the shotgun death of Milton Edward Zylicz, 28, school janitor.

The janitor's body, his head nearly blown off, was found in his office at the Fremont School, where he had been employed 14 years.

Police found a note which in part read: "Hope you get this shot. Think you know too much." It was signed "The Black Legion."

Police said the janitor had been receiving threatening notes for several years.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Tr. Schilder
Miss Gandy

McGuire

61-7396 Sub A

OCT 21 1935

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
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Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Joseph
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Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tracy

# KIDNAPED BOY FORCED TO ROB

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct. 22 (U.S.). A 15-year-old boy late today declared that he had been kidnaped recently by members of the terrorist Black Legion, flogged and forced to join a "junior order" of the night-riding cult known as the "Red Circle."

The story was unfolded to Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Joel Rhinefort who is seeking information as to the extent of Black Legion activities in Ohio. A city council investigating committee headed by Mayor John A. Carey is conducting a separate probe.

Rhinefort and the mayor's committee conferred to "compare notes" and consider presentation of facts at hand to a special grand jury. Ohio links in the chain of the cult were partly disclosed during the trial of 12 men convicted in Detroit of the Black Legion murder of Ernest Poole, Works Progress Administration employe.

The boy, whose identity was not disclosed, told Rhinefort that late last year he and a companion were kidnaped and taken to a South Michigan city. There they were strapped to a board and beaten until they agreed to join the "Red Circle."

When the two joined at its hideout in the Michigan city, 80 other youths were there, the boy said.

61-7390-A

WASH. HERALD

OCT 23 1936

R. E. JOSEPH

92

WESTERN WORKER
10-26-36

# POLICE HEADS BIG SHOTS IN BLACK LEGION

## *Administer Bloody Oaths To New Police Recruits*

TOLEDO—"In the name of God and the Devil, I promise never to betray secrets of the Black Legion, to carry out orders unto bitter death and to strike with an avenging arm so long as breath remains."

**This is part of the bloody and murderous oath administered to new police recruits, paid by tax funds to uphold law and order, at initiations frequently held during lunch hour in the police arsenal.**

# BLACK LEGION KILLS IN OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO. — The Black Legion was reported behind the slaying of Milton Edward Zylicz, a school janitor here. Police announced definite possibility of the murderous fascist organization's connection with the killing.

The janitor's head was nearly blown off by discharge of a shotgun. His body was found in his office at the Fremont School.

A note found by police read: "Hope you get this shot. Think you know too much. Black Le— "

61 13722-1A

93

# Police Probing Threat Against Stanley Field

Chicago—(AP)—Identity of the person who made a threatening telephone call to the suburban home of Stanley Field, president of the Field Museum, was sought today by Lake Bluff police.

"I'm a member of the Black Legion," the caller was quoted as saying. "You think you're pretty smart, but we're coming up to bomb your place. If you think I'm bluffing, I'll tell you where the house keys are hanging."

The caller then told where the keys could be found, the police were informed. The call was made Sunday. Field said he knew no reason for the threat.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
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Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
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Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

The Hartford Times
June 9, 1936
Forwarded by New York office

61-7398-A

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## Black Legion Is Bad Influence To Youth As The Gangster

A report [illegible] of the Department of Justice, addressing the [illegible] State Bar [illegible] that the shift of youthful idolatry from gangster to criminal has changed age levels of crime in the last five years, and that 19 was no longer the criminal age.

This may be true, but there are other influences which are as bad as youthful idolatry of the gangster in the influencing of youth, as was indicated on Friday when police broke into a barn in Detroit and rescued two boys who, they said, were about to be hanged by three other boys for having good school records. One of the young lynching party, only nine years of age, told the police "We were going to do like the Black Legion does."

When the police arrived they found that a rope had been tied around the neck of one of the youngsters and that he was about to be pushed from a second story window of the barn. Another youngster, nine years of age, was tied hand and foot, ready to be hanged next.

It is well that the machinations of the Black Legion, with its reputed hundreds of thousands of members and with a record of a score or more of murders and hundreds of beatings, have come into the limelight and that the Michigan authorities are determined to punish those guilty of these crimes and break up the organization, for outside of the crimes of which they have been guilty they have undoubtedly been an evil influence on the youth of the state when youngsters in their early teens begin to emulate their crimes.

America has no place for organizations which go outside of the law to accomplish their ends and spread a reign of terror among the people. We have had a number of them in the past, but apparently the Black Legion represents a combination of the worst qualities of all of them.

The Michigan authorities have the power to deal with the crimes of that organization within the state limits, but if it is found that its influence has spread beyond state lines, and, as one of the members of the Black Legion has stated, has become a nation-wide organization, it is time that the Federal government, through the Department of Justice and its agents, take a hand in wiping it out and punishing those found to have had a hand in its criminal activities.

NEW JERSEY
PRESS CLIPPING
BUREAU
11 HILL ST. NEWARK

MORNING CALL
Paterson, N. J.
JUN 8 1936
EDITORIAL

61-727

JOSEPH

45

## *Mumbo Jumbo*

Last fr igh the arraignment in Detroit of ) "Wolverine Republican lub" members for the murder of a young atholic WPA worker (TIME, June 1) ve the U. S. its first word of a nebulous, ack-cloaked, Klan-like organization called the Black Legion. Following a slim lead the Press and police last week splat- over U. S. newspapers an incredible -&-thunder story which had liberals rely worried, psychologists intensely ested, the average citizen bewildered. irst Black Legionary of note to be ar- ed after the twelve "Republicans" was oon-eared, tight-lipped Ray Ernest, ckson State Prison guard, reputedly a rigadier general." With four others he as accused of lashing another WPA worker, of fatally flogging a fellow prison guard who had tried to withdraw from the Legion. While newspapers painted the complicated ritual in which a Legion neophyte was asked whether he believed in a Supreme Being, could ride, shoot, drink and lie, police announced that they had raided Ernest's Jackson home, found a metal-studded whip. Mrs. Ernest, claiming to have played Little Eva in a presentation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, said the whip was merely a stage prop. "What were you trying to do," asked a wry policeman, "kill Uncle Tom?"

Also found in Ernest's home was correspondence to Virgil Harry Effinger of Lima, Ohio. He, newshawks found, is a ponderous, big-nosed salesman with a foghorn voice who quotes extensively from the Bible, addresses everyone as "Brother." Seated in his basement office, which contains a plaster statuet of a hooded klansman and framed pictures of Paul Revere and George Washington, Effinger neither admitted nor denied that he was the Legion's commander-in-chief. The 6,000,000 members, he stoutly asserted, did not believe in violence, worked solely for the furtherance of "Americanism."

Another Detroit clue pointed to Bellaire, Ohio's $25-a-month Health Commissioner, squint-eyed Dr. William Jacob ("Dr. Billy") Shepard as commander-in-chief. To citizens there "Dr. Billy" was a "harmless old coot," incurably hipped on the preservation of Southern chivalry. Eleven years ago he appeared at a Ku Klux Klan meeting dressed in black, attended by "Black Guards," stirred up Klan resentment. He withdrew with his Black Guards, who apparently burgeoned, without his assistance, into the Legion. Refusing to define his position, "Dr. Billy" said: "You have to have mystery in a fraternal thing to keep it alive; the folks eat it up."

Michigan and other states investigating the Legion found its odor distinctly unpleasant. Outraged Pontiac, Mich. citizens, hearing that many of their city officials were connected with Legion activities, began an inquiry of their own. The appearance of Wayne County Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea's name on ~~a Legion~~ membership blank caused a fine furor in

[illegible] begging the G Men to step in. Introduced in the U. S. House and Sen was a joint resolution demanding a C onal investigation.

On the trail for "big names" behind this Catholic-hating, Negro-hating, Communist-hating group and other floggings and murders which could be pinned on it, newshawks discovered that there was a defunct women's division. "I'm the colonel and proud of it," disclosed a Mrs. Grace Lupp of Highland Park. "The auxiliary was organized two years ago, solely for political purposes. . . . We tried to keep it a clean organization, but we found it was very difficult. . . ." Willingly "Captain" Geraldine Nankervis explained the Legion's virtues: "It keeps our husbands out of beer gardens for one thing. Then, too, we know that when they're at their secret meetings they're not running around with other women."

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Clayton
Mr. Brennan
Mr. Clark
Mr. Clark
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Gurnea
Miss Gandy

Mon for call

Mon 42

61-7398-A

"Time" magazine
6-8-36

96 FCP
for
GSD

THE DETROIT TIMES
June 8, 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Jones
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Lansing Extortion-Bombers Admit Firing at Man in Door

LANSING, Mich., June 8.—(AP)—Police Chief Alfred Seymour searched today for Black Legion implications in an extortion plot, bombing, holdup and shooting that he and his officers marked "solved" on their books.

The chief said he had obtained statements from Steve Goulding, 25 years old, and Fred Chapman, 18, admitting that it was they who fired a fusillade of pistol bullets that narrowly missed Marion O'Connors of Eagle, as he stood in a restaurant doorway here two months ago. Seymour was not satisfied with their explanation, however, that the bullets were intended to frighten the restaurant proprietor rather than to injure anybody in particular.

Added to this was the fact that O'Connor told police he knew who shot at him but that "I'll take care of this in my own way."

Seymour contended this and other misdeeds with which the men are accused all "conceivably might have something to do with Black Legion activity, although the men deny it."

Prosecutor Dan D. McCullough planned to prepare warrants today accusing the two of a plot to extort $5,000 from Max A. Kramer, of Lansing, and with having bombed his auto parts plant here to prove to Kramer that they "meant business." No money was paid.

Both Goulding and Chapman are accused, also, of implication in the $324 robbery of Tony Tremont in his residence here last Friday. A third man, Eddie Belbeck, 26, is held on a charge of suspicion of robbery armed as their accomplice in that robbery. Police Capt. Frank J. O'Brien said Chapman and Goulding accused him of assisting in the holdup, but absolved him of implication in the other crimes.

61-7398-A

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# Cardinal Forecasts Black Legion's Fall

Vatican City, June 6 (AP).—The "Black Legion" was condemned here today by Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, and he prophesied its early death.

"It will fall to pieces as soon as it is dragged out into the sun," he remarked following a half-hour visit with Pope Pius.

Cardinal Dougherty said he read about the Legion's discovery in Detroit upon his arrival in Europe and said it "seemed incredible."

"The organization seems to be a revival of the Ku Klux Klan," he said, "embracing the same kind of people and thoroughly un-American."

He discussed ecclesiastical affairs with the Pope and presented his nephew, the Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, vice chancellor of the Archdiocese, to him.

He found Pope Pius "looking remarkably strong and well and unchanged from when I saw him two years ago," he said. "His mind, as formerly, is most active, clear and keen."

The Cardinal, who will remain in Rome for the forthcoming consistories, also visited Cardinal Pacelli papal secretary of State. He plans to leave June 25.

Mr. Boardman
Mr. Clark
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Crosby
Mr. Dalbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Leo
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Tolson
Mr. Walters
Miss Gandy

Mr. Ed Tamm

Enclosure

61-7398-A

JUN 7

18

# ESCAPED DEATH

## *Black Legion Inspired Boys to Attempt Their Lynching*

International News Photo

**JOSEPH IGNAGNI AND ALBERT VALENTI**
***Rescued From Hanging Planned By Young Hooded Mob in Detroit***

WASH. HERALD
JUN 7 1936

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# Today

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

**More Worry In Paris.**

**Two Hangings Thwarted.**

**30,000 Leave Their Money.**

**What About China?**

**By Arthur Brisbane**

Interesting news from Detroit where police found three boys, from nine to 14, holding as prisoners, in a barn, two other boys, nine and 11, preparing to hang them, in imitation of the "Black Legion." Police called by passers-by heard the screams of the boys.

The three boys were going to hang the two youngsters because they were "too high up in their classes."

61-7575-A

JUN 7 1935

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Mr. Conroy
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lebilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

# Boys, Aping Clan, Try to Hang Companion

DETROIT, June 6 (I.N.S.). **"Aw, we wouldn't have dropped him. We ain't that dumb."**

Three frightened boys thus protested to police today after a **"Junior Black Legion"** lynching party was broken up just as the boys allegedly prepared to hang Albert Valenti, 11.

The three boys, playing "hookey" from school, according to police, saw Valenti and another boy, Joseph Ignagni, 9, go by in a coaster wagon.

The trio, Amando Serali, 14; Raymond Buccellati, 11, and Joseph Angelo, 10, swooped on Valenti and Ignagni and forced them into a barn, officers declared.

After keeping their victims "prisoners" for four hours, the trio, Police Inspector Wendell Lockbiler said, tied Ignagi to a post and then bound and gagged Valenti, placed a rope around his neck and started leading him toward the big window of the abandoned barn.

Walter Kaltenberg, a gardener, rushed into ~~the barn~~ and stopped them. Valenti was hysterical.

61-7398-A

WASH. TIMES

JUN 6 1936

101

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

The attorney general of the United States is a savvy Connecticut Yankee. He knows he's got a good thing in the G-men. But he has been long in politics and he realizes it would take very little extra zeal on his part in the use of those same G-men to bring some very vocal senators or congressmen bounding into the arena with cries that he is setting up a Cheka, OGPU, or what have you.

Hence his unwillingness to inject his men into the Black Legion situation until he is dead certain specific federal laws are being violated.

Atty. Gen. Cummings

CAPITAL STUFF

CHICAGO DAILY TIMES

BY: Doris Fleeson

June 5th, 1936

61-7398-A

102

# "Who's Next, Boss?"

**Asked why he murdered a helpless innocent man, Dayton Dean replied: "I shot people because I was supposed to. I had no personal grudge. I had to take orders from my superior officers. If I were ordered to murder someone or commit crime, I would do it."**

The Black Legion of hoodlums, thugs, murderers, and some politicians seeking advancement, dress themselves in black robes, decorated with the pirate's symbol of the skull and crossbones, and feel that they are all-powerful, recognizing no law save their own.

Their ridiculous costumes, titles and rituals would be of no importance, except that this organization, formed to commit murder and lesser crimes, seeks to extend its rule by terror and mystery, and imposes its bloody will on well-selected tools who **actually commit murder under orders.**

61-7398-A

New York Daily Mirror

JUN 5 1936

103

The "Chaplain" of the Black Legion charges new members during initiation:

**"Remember that our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies."**

Then they swear, "standing under the black arch of Heaven's avenging symbol," the Black Oath:

**"In the name of God and the devil...to devote my life to the obedience of my superiors..."**

And "in the obedience of my superiors," Dayton Dean murdered Charles Poole, riddled him with bullets, left him to die in a ditch. The cartoon above, like photographs, shows Dayton Dean to be a typical heavy-jawed thug, incapable of independent thought. Calmly, defiantly, he told in court how he murdered the unfortunate Poole, whom gossips had accused, **unjustly,** of beating his wife.

While the other defendants glared at him, Dayton Dean told how he fired eight shots into the kneeling form of Charles A. Poole, **"because you do what you are told to do in the Black Legion."**

Dean had had a taste of Black Legion "discipline." Detective Sergeant Harvill disclosed that Dean had told him "that he was taken to a field west of the city about eighteen months ago, tied to a tree and whipped because he was lax in getting members to meetings."

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Dean's divorced wife, in a series of articles in the New York Evening Journal, tells how her husband became leader of the "Death Squad":

"One dawn he came home and told me he was in charge of the Death Squad. He said he was picked because he had the courage to do the job and he was a good shot. Nothing could stop him after that. He was wild with power and importance and wouldn't listen to anything I said. He was 'going to the top,' he said."

Murdering Charles A. Poole was part of "going to the top" for Dean. The American public wants to know **who is already at the top** of this murderous Black Legion.

---

All law-abiding Americans are interested in the existence of such a murder-gang as this Black Legion, particularly in the encouragement to lawlessness, which makes the organization of such a gang possible.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, Presiding Judge Ralph W. Liddy, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan have a grave responsibility in tracking the Black Legion to its roots, and **to its TOPS.**

NEW JERSEY
PRESS CLIPPING
BUREAU
11 HILL ST. NEWARK

EVENING NEWS
Bridgeton, N. J.

JUN 4 1936

## Denounces 'Legion'

Denying any connection between the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, burly Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Klan, is shown at Atlanta as he urged the use of G-Men to stamp out the black-hooded terrorists. (Associated Press Photo)

61-7575-A

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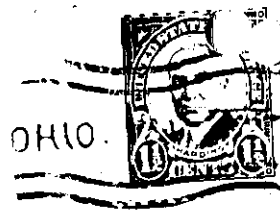

OHIO TROY

J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nat[illegible]
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Beardman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Detroit Experiencing Black Legion Scare

## Said to Have Large Membership Throughout Country

Lima, Ohio.—Detroit, Michigan is experiencing a Black Legion scare almost a year after a former city employee had a case of Blind Jitters or something that is said to have caused him to see pink elephants doing a circle dance on the ceiling.

From now on the police of various cities will have an excuse for believing every crime they cannot solve was committed by this particular group.

The unfair enforcement of law by some of the constituted officers are the real reason for organizations of this kind to come into being.

Rumor has it that this particular group have already formed county organizations in 79 of the 88 counties of Ohio.

It is also said that this organization will be a factor in the Fall election, already having enough power in the way of ballots to swing an election in the state.

Unlike the old Klan group, this new group are said to have been building a machine of members for the last six years until at the present time they have a machine of tremendous voting power.

W-4397-A

The State Indicator
Troy, Ohio
6-4-36

REJ

# Dayton Men In Black Legion

The State Indicator
Troy, Ohio
6-4-36

R6J

# Political Bosses Who Were Unaware of Existence of Secret Organization of this Size Now are at Loss to Know Who to Trust or Not to Trust.

## Brower Said to be the Man Most Alarmed Due to Nickel Grabbing By Himself and Other Members

Dayton, Ohio.—With the uncovering in Detroit, Michigan, of a new organization, said to be on the order of the K. K. K. namely the Black Legion, a branch of which is said to be located in Dayton, numbering about 21,000 for Montgomery county, is said to have the political wise boys guessing.

Any organization with a membership of this size could very easily control the trend of politics in the Fall campaign.

Some years ago Li'l Daniel Brower of Gold Brick fame was able to control the vote of the old Klan through deals made with unscrupulous officers of that organization.

But it is said that with this new political factor, the political shyster of the type who trades favors is said to be on the outside looking in.

This new organization which has sprung into prominence over night seems to have used an altogether different method of organizing without the fanfar of the old Klan they seem to have built their group quietly until they reached a voting strength sufficient to control an eleciton before getting into the spot light.

According to information, a number of city officials and county employees belong to this new group.

A Klan membership is said to be one of the requirements to become a member.

Like the investigations some years ago when the old Klan was investigated time after time and all of the crimes of the calendar were charged to them, this fan-fare from Detroit may be another one of those cases where some political highbinder may have had a case of the jitters and imagined a lot about murder and suicide.

Anyway, if it is true that 21,000 members of the black legion are on the loose in Montgomery County they don't seem to have killed or beat up many around Dayton.

But if the reports are true as to their membership strength, a few political funerals may be the order of the day when election time rolls around next November.

The State Indicator
Troy - Ohio
6-4-36

R67

# RUBBER RIFF

# SPURS SCHRO

## City Hall Boys Spend Night of Idle "Waiting"

### Tap The Wires Like They Did NOT Do In Karpis or Dillinger Cases.

The State Indicator
Troy - Ohio
6-4-36

R.E.J.

Akron, Ohio.—Mayor Lee Schroy, incensed at the recent flareup in labor troubles at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was reported last week to be taking an active, very active interest in the situation and from a scource real close to the mayor came the information that the head of the city was launching on a determined effort to "clean out the anarchist agitators" from whence came the majority of labor disputes.

While city detectives were busy Friday night combing the city for two men, against whom warrants had been issued following the assault upon two non-union workers at the No. 2 plant Friday, city officials were preparing for any emergencies that might arise. Police Prosecutor James Alpeter refrained from going to bed until well after midnight Friday, staying at his post downtown to be ready to give any legal assistance needed in case of not unexpected trouble at the change of shifts at midnight or shortly thereafter.

From the Portage Hotel, immediately after the Republican central committee met to select executive committeemen, telephone calls were being made to officials of the city and the rubber factory, telling of the determination of the titular head of the administration to "make a cleanup".

"Mayor Schroy wants to clean out that Anarchist agitation", one source said in a conversation with a supposed rubber company men, after first talking with the legal department of the city.

"If you need legal advice or assistance, then Alpeter will be there all night. If you just need police assistance then call direct to the police department", a voice over the phone was reported saying.

A special detachment of officers was detained in anticipation oftrouble at the change of shifts and were ready to report at the factory at a moments notice.

Saturday morning Schroy got busy to see what could be done to settle the difficulties between officials of the rubber factory and the employees. After deliberating with both sides Schroy announced that he thought the trouble would be settled in a peaceable manner reporting both sides agreeable to a round table discussion to iron out the difficulties. He said they were both desirous of doing everything possible to avoid trouble.

Unlike former mayor helf-Nelson Sparks, Schroy is playing squarely with both sides. Sparks played with both sides, hut not squarely. Schroy is a friend of the laborers, not just a pretended friend. He is taking an active interest in labor difficulties to clear up the situation with the least amount of trouble. Sparks made the laborers think he was their friend while at the same time dealing with the rubber barons to double-cross the workers when the opportune time rolled around.

The State Indicator
Troy, Ohio
6-4-36

R.E.J.

THE DETROIT TIMES
June 4, 1936

# BLACK LEGION UNDER EYE OF U. S. A YEAR

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings declared today he had known of the existence of the Black Legion for about a year.

He said, however, he had received as yet no evidence of violation by Black Legionnaires of a federal statute.

"I have known of the existence of the Black Legion for about a year," Cummings declared.

**SHIELDS INFORMER**

He refused to reveal who had informed him of the existence of the cult.

"The justice department can only enter a case," Cummings emphasized, "in event a federal law has been violated. We do not hesitate to act, however, if a federal law has been violated."

Cummings said he had not heard from Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, who last week wired him he had evidence which he believed constituted violation of federal laws.

Cummings wired McCrea to submit any evidence he might have to the justice department for examination. The department, in this case, would decide whether there had been any violation of federal statutes.

"Thus far," Cummings said, "I have heard nothing further from McCrea.

**NO U. S. VIOLATION**

"I might say when I first heard of the existence of the Black Legion in Michigan, nothing was presented to me which would warrant justice department intervention.

"The same situation exists now. I have not received from McCrea or anybody else any information which would warrant the department in taking action."

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, Cummings said, discussed with him recently the activities of the Black Legion.

Mr. Nease
Mr. Ayres
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

Mohr
Mohrman
Emmons

61-7398-A

INDEXED-99

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Miss Gandy

BAUMGARDNER

# Ohio's Chief Black Legion Figure Dies

Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger of Lima, Ohio, once leader in that state of the Black Legion, died Saturday in a state hospital at Toledo. The Black Legion, an organization which intended to overthrow the government, figured in the news nearly two decades ago. Seven of its members now are in Southern Michigan prison, serving terms imposed on murder charges growing out of its activities. Effinger, who was 82 at the time of his death, never was returned to Michigan for trial for his part in the legion's affairs. Originally arrested in August, 1936, on charges of criminal syndicalism, he vanished during an extradition hearing at Columbus.

In December, 1938, he reappeared at his Lima home, surrendered and posted bond for his appearance at another hearing. The case dragged on for months and finally was dropped.

An electrical contractor at the time of his arrest, Effinger was described as the "major general" of the Black Legion. He was one of 22 persons indicted at Detroit. According to evidence, he and the others advocated seizure of the government by a coup on Sept. 16, 1936, when arsenals and federal buildings were to be taken over by the organization.

Imprisoned here are Dayton Dean, Irwin Lipp, Lowell Rushing, Irving Lee, Edward Baldwin and Charles Ross.

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# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

DETROIT.--VIRGIL EFFINGER, REPUTED FORMER HEAD OF THE BLACK LEGION, WAS CLEARED OF A CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF BOMBS, IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE CULT. JUDGE JOSEPH GILLIS DISMISSED THE CHARGE AGAINST EFFINGER WHEN THE CASE WAS CALLED FOR TRIAL IN COMMON PLEAS COURT AND THE PROSECUTION ANNOUNCED IT WAS NOT READY TO PROCEED.

EFFINGER STILL FACES A CHARGE OF CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM.

3/16--R1052A J

# BLACK LEGION GANG BOMBS BLOOR RALLY

## Toledo Investigation Is Demanded by C. P., American League

(Special to the Daily Worker)

TOLEDO, O., March 16.—Two tear gas bombs were hurled from a speeding automobile believed to be carrying Black Legionnaires here Tuesday night at the second story windows of a hall where Mother Ella Reeve Bloor, veteran Communist leader, was addressing a mass rally.

The incident brought forth an immediate demand by the Communist Party, represented by Kenneth Eggert, and the American League for Peace and Democracy, through its spokesman Francis J. Murphy, for reopening the Grand Jury investigation of the Black Legion and similar terrorist organizations.

The bombing took place at the Rol Davis Building where Mother Bloor was speaking at the time. No one was hurt.

Steps will also be taken, it was reported, to dislodge Vic Roe, former Brigadier-General of the Black Legion now serving on the Lucas County Grand Jury. Trade union and civil groups are pressing for his dismissal. A recent conference with City Manager Edy brought assurance that serious efforts will be made to end a renewed campaign of violence against the left-wing movements, which had ceased for more than a year, only to begin again with the atrocious bombing Tuesday night, and a similar bombing of the home of John C. Taylor, Socialist Board of Education member, two weeks ago.

DAILY WORKER
MAR 17 1938

# Black Legion Called Echo of Union League

## Prof. Akers Thinks Band May Have Reflected Ideas of Michigan Financiers

*By a Staff Correspondent*

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 29.—The Union League of Michigan, led by forty-two of Detroit's dominant financial and industrial figures, unwittingly fostered the development of the Black Legion, Professor Elmer Akers, of the department of sociology at the University of Michigan, said in an address made today before the American Sociological Society meeting at the Hotel Claridge.

"Nothing has yet been discovered which can be taken as conclusive evidence of direct sponsorship of the Black Legion by the Union League of Michigan, or by any members of the class it represents," Professor Akers said. "The relationship seems to have been one in which a group of highly prejudiced rank-and-file American citizens carried out in their own way their interpretation of the example and point of view expressed by the dominant attitude and policy forming groups in the community, of which the Union League of Michigan was the leader."

### Traces Legion Origin

Professor Akers traced the origin of the Black Legion to widespread "Red hunting" which, in 1932, he said, began to assume national proportions. "It wa. generally known in the city (Detroit)," he said, "that some Communists and radical sympathizers were active in the Auto Workers' Union. The newspapers, certain fundamentalist Baptist ministers, the Liberty League and kindred agencies were the standard bearers in the anti-Communist campaign.

"It is possible, if not probable, that certain promulgations on this matter by the Union League of Michigan—because of its high position in the social and industrial life of the metropolis—provided the impulse which set in motion the anti-radical movement in Detroit—a movement in which the Black Legion was destined to play, by its own unique methods, a striking part."

### Law Legion Backed Hit It

Ironically, he said, one of the league's resolutions, unanimously adopted at the time, called for strict observation of Michigan's laws regarding criminal syndicalism. That, Professor Akers said, "was the very law under which, a little more than five years later, the Black Legion members apprehended were tried, convicted and sentenced to prison."

Ellsworth Faris, of the University of Chicago, delivering the presidential address at the annual dinner of the American Sociological Society, said tonight that members of his organization did not seek for certainty but only for "a greater measure of security." He added: "The triumphs of the age of physical science give us confidence in the power of the human reason."

Clipping from
NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

DATE [illegible]

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# BLACK KLAN CHIEF GIVES HIMSELF UP

## Surrenders in Ohio Home—Will Fight Extradition to Michigan

LIMA, Ohio, Dec. 4 (AP).—Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, accused commander of the Black Legion who walked out of an extradition hearing at Columbus and was unheard of for fifteen months, was back home today, ready to battle in court his return to Michigan to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of explosives.

The portly one-time electrical contractor surrendered at his home suddenly and dramatically yesterday, as the climax to a lengthy search that extended through several States.

An hour after his arrest, Effinger was freed under $1,000 bond by Common Pleas Judge E. E. Everett, who set hearing of a habeas corpus writ for next Friday.

Judge Everett also granted an injunction restraining law enforcement officers from arresting Effinger on charges similar to those contained in the warrant upon which he was held today.

The hearing will offer, Effinger's attorney, Clarence C. Miller, told the Court, the first test of a new Ohio statute under which the legality of an extradition warrant may be examined.

The "major general" of the Black Legion, an organization designed to overthrow the Government at a given date, was one of twenty-two persons indicted in Detroit. According to evidence, Effinger and others advocated seizure of the Government by a coup on September 16, 1936, by taking over Government buildings and arsenals at given points.

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK POST

DATE: _____

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# No Toledo Action On Black Legion

TOLEDO, Ohio, Sept. 12 (I.N.S.)—The year-old grand jury investigation of Black Legion activities in Lucas county was at an end today, without return of a single indictment. No mention of the investigation of the night riders was made by the jury in its final report.

# G. M. to Arm New Black Legion, Ku Klux Klan Vigilante Outfit

## New 'Law and Order League' Headed by Man Who Gained Political Office Through Support of General Motors-Republican Gang

By DeWITT GILPIN

*[This is the second of a series of three articles]*

FLINT, Mich., Aug. 2.—When I interviewed Raymond French, head of General Motors' 1937 model vigilante band, he declared that he would arm his members in case of labor trouble, "after they have been deputized."

When I interviewed Police Chief Wills, anti-labor specialist, now back in office through the power of the "Law and Order League," he told me he wouldn't comment on the vigilantes.

"But," I protested, "Raymond French says that his men will be deputized in case of labor trouble. You will have to do that won't you?"

"Maybe," snapped the man whose anti-labor record streches from the copper strike of 1920 to the shooting of the GM strikers at Fisher No. 2 last winter, "but maybe the sheriff will do it. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it."

L. W. Thomas, Klansman and secretary of Protestant Action Association, unified Black Legionaire-Klan group, was just as touchy on the subject of the vigilantes. "I don't know anything about them," he insisted.

### BLACK LEGION HELPS

"But your president and other members of Klan and Legion are helping organize them," I informed him.

Thomas, despite the fact that he had issued a statement to the press previously that his organization was coordinating the two disreputable groups, shouted a denial that his members were Klansmen and Legionaires.

"But you said so in the Detroit News," I reminded him.

"A pack of lies," he roared.

"But at your first meeting of the Association," I persisted, "didn't you have James A. Colescott, grand dragon of the northwestern states, speak to you about the Klan's program?"

"Well," said Thomas, a little weakly, "he was there alright."

So, as I explained in the previous article, was George Boysen, ex-head of the Flint Alliance and other vigilantes now resurrecting Boysen's old organization under a new name. In reality the Action Association first tried to form a vigilante organization on its own but gave up this idea when the "Law and Order League" was agreed upon. Before this took place, Thomas, when questioned by a News reporter as to the effect the exposure of the Black Legion in Detroit had on its members in Flint, declared, "Why should it hurt the Legionaires out here? They are all good Americans!"

### REPRESENTATIVE TRIO

Raymond French, American Legionaire, James Wills, anti-labor police chief who refused to let the Flint unions distribute a handbill attacking the Black Legion, L. W. Thomas, Klansman and Black Legion defender—here is a representative trio of the "Law and Order League of Flint," organized "to protect the right to work" and backed by GM.

"I'm not connected with General Motors and I don't intend to be," French told me in his office over vigilante headquarters in the Dryden Building.

Knowing the ill-repute that all organizations fall into here once they are tainted with the stamp of the motor corporation, French and his associates are trying desperately to avoid exposure.

Unfortunately for him, French's own record makes him out a liar. For years he has been a part of the political machine that has been General Motors company union in the city hall. A legionaire and a former commander, he was elected to office as city commissioner several years ago with the full support of the Republican-G.M. machine. At that time his opponent for office, another Republican, attacked him in a pamphlet which charged that he had made arrangements with all the collection agencies to garnishee the wages of auto workers delinquent in their accounts. It earned for him a title that stuck, "the garnishee lawyer."

### BROKE STRIKE

French also gained notoriety during the 1934 A. F. of L. auto strikes here that were broken by state militia. At that time he busied himself giving pep talks to the troops and extolling them to "protect property" and keep order.

As a veteran politician, French fit nicely into the plan entered into by General Motors executives and Republican politicians to use the newly formed vigilante organization to oust the pro-labor representatives in the city government. The details of this political coup, which has already resulted in union sound cars being banned from the streets, involved officials of the G.M. plant and will be described in the next article of this series.

DAILY WORKER

AUG 3 1937

# Black Legion Head Reported in N. Y.; Tip Proves False

New York, July 27 (AP).—A report that Virgil F. Bert) Effinger, reputed head of the Black Legion and fugitive from justice, was working here caused a flurry of excitement in the police department today.

Assistant Chief Inspector John A. Lyons said requests for Effinger arrest had come from Detroit, Mich., and Columbus, Ohio, after tips Effinger was employed by a local contractor.

The man, reported to be Effinger, was investigated but his identity was established quickly.

Effinger, identified at trials in Detroit as commander of the Black Legion, has been sought since last August 25.

WASHINGTON POST

JUL 28 1937

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# BLACK LEGION HEAD HUNTED IN NEW YORK

**"Major General" Effinger, Who Fled Ohio Inquiry, Reported Seen in City.**

Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, described as a "Major General" of the Black Legion, was being sought in New York today on a report from Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit that a man resembling him was seen here recently. Assistant Chief Inspector John A. Lyons said police had been requested to arrest him on a warrant charging him with being a fugitive and possessing firearms.

Effinger, a Lima (Ohio) electrical contractor, walked out of an investigation at Columbus last August into the activities of the Black Legion, a terrorist organization with a background of violence and murder. He is credited with the observation that "America is cursed with too much liberty."

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: JUL 27 1937

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Evening Sun
Baltimore, Md.

DATE 1937

# FUGITIVE HEAD OF BLACK LEGION SOUGHT IN N. Y.

## Detroit And Columbus, Ohio, Ask Arrest Of Virgil Effinger

## PROBE DEFENDANT MISSING FOR YEAR

## Vanished Last August From Hearing On Extradition

[By the Associated Press]

New York, July 27—Assistant Chief Inspector John A. Lyons, in charge of New York detectives, announced receipt today of requests from Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich., for the arrest of Virgil F. Effinger, alleged to be commander of the Black Legion.

Lyons said the request from Columbus was for Effinger's arrest on a fugitive warrant. Effinger walked out of an extradition hearing in Columbus last August on charges growing out of the Black Legion investigation.

The Detroit request, Lyons said, was for Effinger's arrest on a charge of illegal possession of weapons.

### Police Working On Report

Police were working on a report a man resembling Effinger was seen recently in metropolitan New York.

Effinger, identified at trials in Detroit as national commander of the Black Legion, was among twenty-two persons charged with violation of the State criminal syndicalism statute and conspiracy to overthrow the Government in a blanket warrant issued by Circuit Judge James E. Chenot, of Detroit.

Judge Chenot sat as a one-man grand jury to investigate the secret society of hooded night riders.

### Faces Bomb Charge Also

Effinger also faces another warrant, obtained by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Wayne (Detroit) county, who charged that Effinger transported bombs and explosives to a Black Legion meeting here two years ago.

Both charges are contained in an extradition warrant signed by Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio on August 28, three days following a hearing before Charles Leasure, his executive assistant.

Effinger, who was attending the hearing, failed to appear after a noon recess. Leasure recommended that Effinger be returned to Michigan.

### Based On Dean's Statement

The indictments naming Effinger and twenty-one others were based on affidavits of Dayton Dean, confessed Black Legion "executioner," and other members.

Dean alleged that Effinger and others advocated the overthrow of the Federal Government and planned a coup on September 16, 1936, to seize Government buildings and arsenals.

Dean, one of eight men sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Charles A. Poole, testified that there was a national call word, "Lixto," as the signal for the coup.

McCrea's warrant charged that Effinger displayed six hand grenades at the Detroit home of Arthur F. Lupp, Sr., alleged State commander of the Black Legion.

### Lupp Serving Prison Term

Lupp is serving a prison term for conspiracy to kill a newspaper publisher of Highland Park.

Effinger was named also as a sponsor of the Black Legion in a grand jury report issued by Circuit Judge George B. Hartrick, of Pontiac, Mich. The report added the Black Legion was formed in Ohio, probably in 1931, by "rebellious members" of the Ku Klux Klan.

The order's oath classed Catholics, Jews and Negroes as "enemies."

There have been close to fifty convictions in Michigan for murder, arson, conspiracy to kill and other crimes since Poole's death.

### Shot Dead In Ditch

Poole, a WPA worker, was "taken for a ride" and shot to death in a roadside ditch.

Dean said there had been false gossip that Poole beat his wife, but that some Black Legion leaders thought he "knew too much."

Five men were given life terms for the "target practice" murder of Silas Coleman, Negro war veteran. Dean said they shot him without warning because Harvey Davis, one defendant, "wanted to see what it felt like to kill a Negro."

Two Black Legion men were convicted of a plot to kill William W. Voisine, president of the village of Ecorse.

61-3598-A

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# Weird Torture-Rites of the "Black Legion" Boy Gang

*BRANDED BY FIRE!*
*See Those Two Marks on Each Boy's Wrists? (Above and to the Left). They Represent the Secret Brand Every Boy Black-Legionite Had to Endure.*

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Mirror
New York City

DATE JUN 2 1937

# When Grown Men Do Silly Things, the Kids Will Imitate Them—And It Almost Came to Tragedy in a Pennsylvania Town

ONE of the wooden doors hung slantwise. It had only one good hinge. But the gang could fix that up, George Wagner decided. George was fourteen, and pretty smart, a bit bigger than the other members of his gang, and this was HIS idea.

He talked it over with about eleven other boys, as they met in this abandoned wooden garage way down the end of Lane Alley, in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. They all listened pretty well, for George said he was going to be Chief and the boss.

It developed weirdly, as you'll see.

The gang, particularly Bill, who was eleven, and Hank, who was twelve, and Jim Mason, ten, were pretty sore at the bigger fellows up the hill near the railroad station. Every time any of the Lane Alley kids would go up that way, they'd meet about half a dozen older guys (some of them as old as sixteen) and there'd be fist fights and rock throwings and things like that.

Jim Mason, for example, even though he was only ten, said he wasn't scairt of any of those big palookas, even if he'd got a black eye only that week. Three of the big guys had jumped on him, he said, when his mother sent him to Adam's grocery store up the hill.

Yes, agreed George Wagner, that's why he'd picked this secret meeting place in the old wooden garage. They'd form a gang, and get a lot of the other fellows in it, and then they'd go to work on the big bullies up the hill near the railroad station.

Well, they talked it over pretty well that afternoon, and decided four things. Dues would be five cents a week. They would meet each night for at least ten minutes (so as not to miss any good movie in town) and every man would be pledged to secrecy. They would call themselves "The Crusaders"—just like some grown folks.

EVERYTHING went swell for a while. Except that the gang dropped "The Crusaders" and became the "Black Legion." That sounded better, anyway—more mysterious and up-to-date. Almost fifty were in the gang by now. And they had some good meetings. No one could get into that garage without a password, a secret knock and the approval of the outer guard—a Belgian police dog named "Marks."

"Marks" knew his business. Many a night he'd sit there, outside those wooden doors, peering down the alley or up in the air at the flag with the big red cross (hand painted) stuck up on the roof of the headquarters. Every member had a sword or knife, and a shield (wooden, of course) and all decorated with red crosses. If "Marks" didn't know you, you didn't get in.

They tried to get robes like the real Black Legion, but there was no money!

It took quite a while for some of the younger members of the gang to get the secret code down pat, so that they could write each other secret notes while in school. George Wagner and one of his trusty lieutenants devised the code. It went like this:

A is a cross.
B is C.
C is an upside-down T.
E is a double circle.
F is V.
G is V upside down.

The Chief Wagner and Sylvester "Tut" Barnes had a grand idea; it was mostly "Tut's" idea, but Chief Wagner told the meeting that night that HE had thought it up while reading a book he found on Pop's table at home. They'd have a torture chamber, an initiation chamber and a punishment chamber!

The torture chamber would be the best and most important, and Chief Wagner said in a stern voice that as soon as they got the torture machines fixed up that "Tut" Barnes would be "The Tester."

"And," said Chief Wagner, "I'm going to appoint Skinny Wilson my bodyguard and assistant torturer. First thing we're going to do, when I get my instruments together tomorrow night, is to brand every man in this gang."

With many a hushed groan and shiver, the branding started the next night.

Wooden clothespins were dipped into

a fire. The points of the smoulder-ing clothespin were pressed into the flesh, just above the wrist, on each arm.

It hurt, of course, but no one cried out loud. The brands stayed there, too.

THE torture machines were swell. They were home-made, of course, but they worked fine.

"The Stretcher" was a wooden door. Victims were roped up over this door. They hung there for a while and then they got so many strokes on the bare back with rubber hoses.

The "Paddle Machine" was a rude stepladder, about three feet high, across which victims were stretched and tied, while either Chief Wagner or his bodyguard applied a leather strap.

The "Hang-up Machine" was a rope suspended from the roof of the Secret Headquarters by which members were drawn into the air to remain suspended like chain gang convicts until they saw the error of their ways.

Everything was fine now and Chief Wagner decided that the time was ripe to go after those big guys up the hill near the railroad track. Up they went, just before supper time one night. The Black Legion was almost fifty strong, all well armed.

They quickly fought off that gang of bigger boys, seven in all, and retired to their own business for a while.

Then an undercover scout of the "Black Legion" reported to his chief:

SIX OF THAT BIG GANG (one had quit after the fight) HAD FORMED THEIR OWN SECRET CLUB! IT WAS CALLED "THE SYCAMORE SIX!"

And, boy, did that require initiations and punishments!

Why, the "Sycamore Six" were taking fellows and hanging them, by their wrists, to big tree limbs for as long as half an hour.

And while they were hanging 'em there they would jab their feet with sharp thorns and hit 'em with gnarled bushes, with the leaves off!

The Black Legion was in a turmoil. They were being outdone. To a man, they agreed to stamp out "The Sycamore Six" and run its members off the face of the earth.

They laid their plans carefully.

But something went wrong.

The Chief of Police, William J. Whalen, met Chief Wagner, head of the Black Legion, down on Main Street.

The Chief of Police was pretty stern. One of the Black Legion members had almost got blood poisoning in his wrist from a brand mark. Parents had kicked.

Chief of Police Whalen had a good idea. Disband the Black Legion and form a G-Men Gang! Boy Chief Wagner thought it over. It might be a swell idea at that—his G-Men could abolish "The Sycamore Six!"

He agreed to have his men become G-Men and said, unhappily:

"Maybe it's just as well. We ain't collected hardly any dues. They was five cents a week and we only collected a dime from the whole gang. Two Greek kids paid up one week."

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**THE SECRET TERROR-RITE**
*Above, If You Look Closely, You'll See "Black Legion" Chief Wagner Branding a New Gang Member.*

**FLOGGING—JUST LIKE MEN**
*When Any Boy Broke the Stern Gang Rules, He Was Put on the Stretcher," as Shown Above, and Lashed by His Fellows.*

**TORTURE A LA MODE**
*"The Paddle Machine" (Above in Circle) Was Another Home-Made Apparatus Used to Punish Boy Legionnaires.*

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gurnin
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Lester
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Ed

## Black Legion Probed

The Senate Civil Liberties Committee has begun a secret investigation of the notorious Black Legion which terrorized Michigan and other states during the late years of the depression, it was learned today. Committee investigators are in Detroit. Their findings may be revealed in public hearings here.

WASH. NEWS

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# BLACK LEGION PROBE

## *Senate Looks Into Cult's Deeds*

The Senate Civil Liberties Committee has begun a secret investigation of the notorious Black Legion which terrorized Michigan and other States during the late years of the depression, it was learned last night.

Committee investigators are in Detroit probing activities of the hooded organization which originated in Michigan and spread to California, New York, Indiana, Ohio and other areas.

The committee, headed by Senator Robert M. La Follette (P.), of Wisconsin., became interested in the legion because of its alleged anti-union activities.

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WASH. HERALD

MAY 6 1937

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E. Z. JOSEPH

Mr. Nathan .....
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Mr. Foxworth .....
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Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....

## ~~EX-SERGEANT~~ IS JAILED IN BLACK KLAN ARSON

PONTIAC, Mich., May 4 (AP).—Walter A. Pierce, former Pontiac police sergeant, was sentenced in Circuit Court today to three to seven months in jail for arson. He pleaded guilty to participating in a raid during which Black Legion members set fire to the Workers' Educational Camp in 1933.

Prosecutors said Pierce was a colonel in the secret society.

NEW YORK POST

Forwarded by New York Office

MAY 4 1937

BOL

12

# As the Crow Flies

## The Committee of 1,000,000 Seems to Be the Nucleus of a New Klan

By ERNEST L. MEYER

LAST week in Detroit nine more men were added to the score convicted of Black Legion terrorism which was climaxed by the murder of a WPA worker.

These latest convictions pretty well smashed the leadership of the underground terroristic secret society. But the organization was not crushed until great damage had been done, and there are doubtless many cases of Black Legion thuggery which never have come to light.

The wise thing to do is to nip such a fungus in the first stages of its excrescence. The Black Legion is beaten, but organizations as sinister may take its place.

There is one already in the process of formation. It is called the Committee of 1,000,000 and its national leader is the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, who seeks to inherit the mantle of the late Huey Long. One can dismiss the Rev. Mr. Smith as a babbling blowhard yowping about "baby-havin' folks and 'tater growers." Once we dismissed Huey Long with the same easy sneer, but Huey's march to dictatorship might conceivably have been crowned with victory had he not been mowed down by a victim of his own viciousness.

### For God and Country

THE Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith denies he is a Fascist. His sole aim, he says, is to treat Communism not as a political party but as a crime. He vows that his committee will work within the law.

Now it is quite possible that this windbag will get nowhere. It is also quite possible that he may attract to his banners the nucleus of a new brand of Ku Klux Klan with potential power to do untold damage to the Bill of Rights and racial and political minority groups.

There is something hauntingly Klannish in the literature sent out by the Committee of 1,000,000 from its New York headquarters at 65 West Fifty-fourth Street.

"The Committee of 1,000,000," says the leaflet, "is a militant, aggressive, nonsectarian, nonpolitical organization of men and women imbued with the spirit of true Americanism. It has dedicated itself, under the leadership of Gerald L. K. Smith, to the solemn purpose of crushing Communism and other insidious and perversive influences that have undermined the sanctity of our churches, the integrity of our schools and colleges and the solidarity of our accepted family institutions and to the rebuilding of a new spirit of American national character.

### Seven Pillars of Smith

THE spirit of the Committee of 1,000,000 is defined in seven principles of action, covering the entire sphere of our national, religious and economic life:

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Coughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Leader
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 10 1937

61-7378 T 12

"(1) To rebuild the Spirit of America.

"(2) To wipe out to the last vestige Communism and Marxism in all its forms.

"(3) To redefine the American National Character.

"(4) To instill a new spirit of American Youth dedicated intellectually and physically to the maintenance of American Institutions.

"(5) To issue a call to farmers and laborers to resist what is now known to be an international plot to make them part of world revolution.

"(6) To rededicate the citizenry of America to the family altar.

"(7) To secure the maintenance of a well-defined standard of living."

These are the seven pillars of wisdom of the redoubtable Mr. Smith. In joining his organization for an initial fee of $1 you receive a long questionnaire, entitled "Application for Action Committeeman." Besides the usual questions of name, address, place of birth, religion, etc., the application blank states this:

"Do you realize that in joining the Committee of 1,000,000 you may be required under oath to express your willingness to participate in activities that shall transcend all political party lines that at times may be beyond the concepts of other organizations to which you might belong? Are you willing to do this?"

And the application adds significantly: "Have you ever been in the military or naval service? If so, give duration of service, regiment and date of discharge."

## Rising in the Ranks

AH, BUT that is not all. You can also sign an application blank for "Action Group Leader." This application blank asks your bank account, whether you have ever been employed on a Government relief job, whether you "could be available at all hours of the day and night for duty" and "can you receive confidential messages without interference whatsoever from any source, even your family?"

Moreover, you can rise one step higher in the hierachy of the Rev. Mr. Smith. You can sign a blue application blank for "Unit Leader." In this blank added questions are asked: "Are you willing to answer all calls for meetings without any delay whatsoever?" "Are you available for confidential duties and assignments in your community?" "Is your family in sympathy with the general principles of the Committee?" "Do you own an automobile?" "Have you life insurance?" "What church do you attend?"

Don't be afraid to join in the Rev. Mr. Smith's red-baiting legions. You won't be found out. In the statement of principles there is one paragraph captioned "Confidential Membership." It says:

"No membership list of the Committe is ever published and no member is made susceptible to the influence of undue publicity...."

It is my belief that undue publicity is precisely what the Rev. Mr. Smith and his visionary committee needs. It is my belief that the organization and its objectives and its plan for attaining those objectives are a fit subject for scrutiny by La Follette's Senate Committee on Civil Liberties.

Then perhaps we might discover precisely what the members of the Committee of 1,000,000 enrolled in secret have to do when they are "required under oath to participate in activities that shall transcend all political party lines."

It may be that these duties transcend, also, all the lines of decency and the law of the land.

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Devine
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Quinn Tolson
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# JUSTICE BLUSHES

All the comforts of home and Mae West's "come up and see me" dramas can take a fade out. The old saw that truth is stranger than fiction will have to be revised. Truth is stranger than the movies.

Dayton Dean, triggerman in Michigan's Black Legion killing, is held temporarily in a skyscraper jail in Detroit. He's going to prison on a life sentence, but in his present abode he has a room which 17-year-old Lucille Turner describes as "nice." It has a private bath, a radio and other comforts of home.

Lucille climbed into Dean's nice room for a three-hour dinner party with the convicted killer. It was all staged with money furnished by the taxpayers of Michigan and it had more action and "glamour" than anything Hollywood ever produced. When the lady came out from behind the curtain of a shower bath in the convict's cell even blind justice must have blushed.

61-7398

3-2-37

**Romance Behind the Bars:**

# Cell Tryst Balks Slayer's Escape

## 'Sure I Visited Dean; We'd Been Flirting,' Says Girl, 17, Found by Policeman

DETROIT, Feb. 22 (US).—A three-hour tryst with a pretty girl in a jail cell balked the escape plans of Dayton Dean, callous "executioner" for the Black Legion murder cult, police disclosed today.

Lucille Turner, 17-year-old runaway from Asheville, N. C., admitted without abashment:

**"Sure, I visited Dean in his cell; we'd been flirting for over a week."**

But the furor caused by the girl's disappearance from the jail sewing room on the eighth floor, directly below Dean's cell, caused a thorough search of the jail and a disclosure of Dean's preparations for escape.

### *Under Life Sentence for Cult Slaying*

Dean, under life sentence for the cult slaying of Charles A. Poole, young Works Progress Administration employe, had twisted a bolt from the grillwork bars of his cell and the nut on the bolt was missing, police said.

Search of his cell revealed the wrench with which he had done this. Investigators said it would have taken only a few more nights for Dean to have dismantled the grillwork completely.

The Turner girl said their "affair" started more than a week ago when she was singing and playing the piano in the sewing room. Dean, she related, shouted to her out the window:

**"Why don't you come up and see me some time?"**

And then last Saturday:

**"Ain't you coming up?"**

### *Calls to Him That She's Coming Up*

This time, she said, she called back:

**"Sure, I'm coming up."**

She told conflicting stories of how she had reached Dean's cell. First she said she was taken up in an elevator and later that she climbed up to his cell on the inside of the grillwork that extends past the windows on both the eighth and ninth floors.

An investigation was ordered to determine whether Dean was getting special favors and whether the girl had been slipped into his cell by a jail attache.

Lucille was dazzled by Dean's cell, with its private bath and radio. She went on:

**"As we became better acquainted, he kissed me passionately. Afterward, we ate dinner togethr. He had some food in his room and we made a dinner from that."**

But, in the meantime, Lucille's disappearance from the sewing room was discovered and the alarm spread through the jail. She said she tried to return to the eighth floor by way of the grillwork, but found the window to the sewing room locked and had to go back to Dean's cell for lack of any other place to hide.

Occasionally a policeman would look into Dean's cell. Lucille said:

**"Whenever a policeman came through the cell block, I ducked into Dean's shower bath and hid behind three suits of clothes he had hanging there.**

**"Dean would just gaze out the window as if he didn't have a thing on his mind when the guard passed, but I held my breath every time. Dean always could tell when the guard was coming because he heard the click of the key in the big steel door leading into the cell block.**

### *Found by Policeman*

**"Finally, we heard the door lock click again and I ducked back into the shower. But this time the policeman looked into the shower room and found me."**

Dean was equally frank about the affair. With his accustomed braggadocio, he said:

**"Yeah, I had a date with her. I got to know several girls down there by calling down to them. We swapped notes, too, using a string."**

Police Commissioner Heinrich A. Pickert declared:

**"We are investigating to see whether other women have been visiting other men prisoners in similar fashion."**

Replying to intimations that favoritism might have been shown Dean, Detective Sergeant Jack Havril said:

**"He has been treated like any other prisoner. He is being held here to testify in the cases of other Black Legion members accused of crime. When his testimony is finished he will be sent to prison."**

Dean is said to have been tipped off by a previous occupant of his de luxe cell that if he were able to get a transfer to that particular cell he would have no difficult in becoming friendly with the women quartered on the floor below.

Lucille, who has the status of a "lodger" rather than a prisoner, hitchhiked to Detroit with a man Feb. 3 from Asheville where her mother, Mrs. Gussie Turner, lives, police records show. She is being held in the jail until transportation is furnished for her return home. She has been allowed to come and go as much as she pleased.

She was arrested her first night in Detroit when a soldier told police she had accosted him in a beer garden.

# Invited to 'Come Up and See Him 'Some Time,' She Climbs Through Windows of Jail Into His Cell

**LUCILLE TURNER**

*Nonchalantly Puffing on Cigarette, She Admits 'Flirting for Over a Week' with Black Legion's Triggerman*

**DELUXE CELL IN WHICH DAYTON DEAN MADE LOVE TO GIRL, UNBEKNOWN TO GUARDS**

***Commodious Detention Quarters, with Radio and Private Bath, in Detroit Jail Dazzled His Pretty, 17-Year-Old Secret Visitor***

International News Ph

# Girl Bares 'Romance' In Legion Killer's Cell

(Special to The News)

Detroit, Feb. 22.—Lucille Turner, slim, 17-year-old runaway from Asheville, N. C., told of her "life" in the prison "suite" of Dayton Dean, convicted killer and trigger man of the Black Legion, today as police faces glowed brick red.

Lucille, arrested three weeks ago as a frequenter of beer taverns and placed in the women's detention quarters on the eighth floor

Lucille Turner
*Dayton Dean's cellmate.*

of Police Headquarters, was found late Saturday night in the shower room of Dean's apartment—living room and private bath—on the ninth floor.

### Climbs Up Grille.

She had climbed up an iron grille outside the prison walls, she said, to climax a week-long romance.

"Oh, sure, I kissed him many times," she told Eleanor Hutzel, head of the Woman's Division of the Police Department, tonight. "Our affair started a week ago. As we became better acquainted, he hugged and kissed me passionately."

The blue-eyed girl explained that the sewing room of women's quarters was directly under the rooms Dean occupied until today, when he was transferred to a real cell.

### Piano Prelude to Affair.

"There's a piano in the sewing room," Lucille said, "and a week ago I was playing and singing to myself when Dean yelled out of his window and I answered him.

"'Why don't you come and see me sometime?' he asked."

She was playing again Saturday the girl went on, when the hooded legion's executioner again called her.

"Ain't you coming up?" she said he asked.

"I opened the window and climbed up the grille to his room and climbed in, she said. "We talked for a while and afterward we ate together. He had some food in his room."

### Found After Search.

She was found only when a search of the building was made after her absence on the floor below was discovered.

Police Commissioner H. A. Pickert, asked why a convincted killer was so comfortably housed, replied:

"We couldn't send him to the county jail because the other Black Legion men are there. They would do him bodily harm."

Dean, sentenced to life imprisonment, is being held here as a State witness in the approaching trial of other members of the order.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Forwarded by New York Office
FEB 23 1937

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61-7398-A

# Girl's Jail Tryst With Killer Told

*FOLLOWING is an account of Lucille Turner's three-hour tryst with Dayton Dean, infamous Black Legion killer, in a jail cell in Detroit. The visit is now the subject of an extensive police probe.*

By LUCILLE TURNER.

(As told to Elenore Hutzel, head of the Women's Division of the Detroit Police Department.)

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DETROIT, Feb. 22 (INS).—Sure I visited Dayton Dean in his jail cell.

Sure, I kissed him. And we had dinner together, too.

Our affair started about a week ago.

You see, I've been kept in the sewing room on the eighth floor at Police Headquarters, which is directly under Dean's cell. There's a piano in there and I like to play it and sing sometimes.

A week ago I was playing and singing to myself, when I heard voices. Dean was yelling out the window and I answered him.

We had quite a conversation but I don't remember now what was said, except one thing. Dean yelled:

**"Why don't you come up and see me some time?"**

Last Saturday I was again playing the piano. [illegible] playing some old Southern songs (Miss Turner is from Asheville, N. C.) and guess Dean recognized the songs.

He yelled:

**"Ain't you coming up?"**

I yelled:

**"Sure, I'm coming right up."**

I opened the window and climbed up the grill outside the window to his room and climbed in.

I know I told you at first I went up the elevator, but that wasn't true.

*Editor's Note—Police are still investigating the report she was taken up in an elevator to Dean's cell.)*

We said hello when I climbed in, in reguar friendly fashion. I have never seen him before and I was interested in him, having heard so much about him.

He certainly had a nice room. We talked for a while.

As we became better acquainted, he kissed me passionately...

Afterward, we ate dinner together. He had some food in his room and we made a dinner from that.

DAYTON DEAN.

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR
Forwarded by New York Office
FEB 23 1937

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Mr. Quinn
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Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

~~62-533~~
61-7398-B

# CELL YIELDS WRENCH TO SEARCHING POLICE

## Girl Tells of 3-Hour Party With Black Cult Killer

DETROIT, Feb. 22 (I.N.S.). Dayton Dean, Black Legion executioner, gave up possible escape from prison for a three-hour tryst with a girl in his jail cell, police revealed today.

Discovery of a wrench in Dean's cell after his romantic interlude with 17-year-old Lucille Turner was announced by police this morning.

One bolt had been twisted from the grillwork bars of his cell on the ninth floor of police headquarters and the nut on the bolt was missing.

Police said he would have needed only a few more nights to completely dismantle the grill work.

**Search Reveals Wrench**

His cell was searched, however, and the wrench was discovered today after Miss Turner was found in the bathroom of his cell Saturday night.

Miss Turner admitted spending three hours with Dean after she escaped from the eight-floor sewing room of the women's division of the jail, directly below Dean's cell.

During their three-hour visit Dean also served her with dinner from food which he had been allowed to keep in his cell, she said.

Saturday night Miss Turner, held as a runaway from her home, was reported missing, and a three-hour search of the jail finally led to her discovery behind a showed curtain in the bathroom of Dean's cell.

Questioned by Policewoman Elenore Hutzel, Miss Turner herself claimed to be a member of the Black Legion. Police Commissioner Pickert said the girl was merely boastin~.

Pickert said Dean's cell regularly was used for witnesses, but that Dean was placed there because of fears other members of the Black Legion in jail would kill him after Dean turned State's evidence.

Dean's cell was equipped with radio and private bath.

The Black Legion triggerman, being held here while awaiting transfer to prison to serve a lifeterm for the night ride murder of Charles A. Poole, confessed, police said, that he had been exchanging notes with women in the jail for some time by lowering them from the window with a string and safety pin.

He also said he managed to talk to several of the girls, using a ventilator pipe as an improvised telephone. In that way, he said, he managed to learn the names of several of the women.

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Miss Gandy

61-7398-A

WASHINGTON TIMES
FEBRUARY 22, 1937

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Mr. Nichols .....
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# BLACK LEGION SENDS THREATS

DETROIT, Feb. 19 (I.N.S.)—A bullet, with the Black Legion's insignia, received in the mail by Civil Service Commissioner Harry A. Smith, of Highland Park, was the center of an investigation today by postal authorities.

The bullet, a .38-caliber automatic pistol cartridge, with its nose sliced off and with an inscribed cross was received Wednesday by Smith. It was mailed in Detroit.

Smith told authorities he believed the Black Legion had sent him the bullet because of his activity as a member of the commission in purging the civil service of alleged riders during the legion expose.

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61-7398-A

FEB 19 1938
WASH TIMES

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Miss Gandy .....
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# FLORIDA MOVES TO PROBE BLACK LEGION CHARGES

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 19 (UP).—State's Attorney Rex Farrior today prepared to subpena Maurice McMahon of Detroit to explain charges of Black Legion conditions in Tampa which he made in a Michigan newspaper. McMahon wrote the letter from Miami.

It was addressed to the Highland Parker, Detroit suburban newspaper, and charged a Black Legion group controlled the City Hall, committed several murders, tarred and feathered many victims and left them to die in the woods.

Farrior said he would seek to have McMahon testify when the Tampa flogging cases are reopened in April.

MacMahon charged most of the floggings were committed by police who were members of the Black Legion.

NEW YORK POST

Forwarded by New York Office

FEB 19 1937

61-7398-A

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# BLACK LEGION QUIZ SLATED

International News Service

Outlining its future program, the Senate civil liberties committee announced today it will investigate the terroristic practices of the Black Legion and other vigilante groups.

In a report filed in the Senate today Senator LaFollette (P.), of Wisconsin, said:

**"There remains a much broaded and more important work to be done than probing labor spying. Among its other obligations in this inquiry, your committee must study vigilante and violence groups such as the Black Legion."**

He declined comment when asked if investigators had begun an investigation of the Black Le-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

# BLACK LEGION QUIZ SLATED

(Continued from Page 1)

gion, whose leaders are serving prison terms for the murder of a PWA worker in Detroit.

**Spying Called Habit**

Labor spying has become a habit in American industry and as long as it exists it will block collective bargaining, the Senate was told in the report.

The report was filed in support of the committee's request for $50,000 to continue. It said:

**"From your committee's still fragmentary inquiry in this field of its investigation, it is clear that espionage has become a habit of American management.**

**"Until it is stamped out the right of labor to organize, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly will be meaningless phrases. Men cannot meet freely to discuss their grievences or organize for economic betterment; they may not even express opinions on political or religious subjects so long as the machinery of espionage pervade their daily life."**

**Fear List Expose**

On the ground that it would "lead to murder," the Pinkerton Detective Agency declined today to make public its list of secret labor spies.

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## Law to End Lynching Demanded by Wagner

New York, Feb. 12 (AP).—Senator Wagner (Democrat), New York, in a Lincoln anniversary radio address tonight, demanded Federal anti-lynching legislation to "vindicate the principles for which Abraham Lincoln gave his life."

"The crime of lynching," the Senator said, "is one of the most threatening evils * * * which must be eradicated. * * * In 11 cases out of 12 it is directed against that very race which Lincoln released from physical bondage."

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# 25 Are Indicted In Flogging by 'Black Leg' Cult

## Band Was Sworn to Torture, Burn and Kill 'Gossips,' Prosecutor Charges

## 7 Arrested, 18 Hunted

### Alleged to Have Beaten and Robbed Storekeeper

*By The Associated Press*

PRESTONSBURG, Ky., Jan. 7.—Twenty-five men alleged to belong to the "Black Leg" Legion were indicted here today. They were charged with beating and robbing a country storekeeper who had criticized operations of the band in adjoining Magoffin County.

Commonwealth's Attorney O. C. Hall said the members of the band were sworn to "torture, burn and kill" any who talked about them, and in Salyersville Commonwealth's Attorney Earl R. Cooper said they had organized to punish persons who were "not working, or were filthy in their homes or didn't send their children to school."

Seven of those indicted here were placed in jail with bonds fixed at $10,000 each, and Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said that Jim Marshall, one of those indicted, had offered to plead guilty and turn state's evidence. Deputy sheriffs were sent out after the eighteen still at large.

Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said Marshall told him the members of the band were under oath to "hang, burn and kill any man who squealed" and that he was "mighty afraid for himself."

In Magoffin County indictments were returned more than a year ago. Three trials ended in hung juries, and finally two men pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and paid fines of $150 each. The others were placed under peace bonds last September. "There has been no trouble since then in Magoffin County," Cooper said.

The indictment returned today charged that the men banded together and took Miles Barnett, a forty-year-old farmer and country storekeeper, from his home last April and beat him. Hall said some members of the band went to the near-by home of Walter Watkins under orders to "blow his head off" if he were aroused by their actions and tried to aid Barnett. Barnett's wife and aged mother-in-law, who were in the house when Barnett was taken out, were not harmed. Barnett went to McGuffey, Ohio, after that, but returned this week to testify.

N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE
Forwarded by New York Office
JAN 8 - 1937

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Mr. Nichols
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# PEG LEG WHITE IS DEAD; INDICTED IN BLACK KLAN

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 21 (AP). Death here of Isaac (Peg Leg) White removed his name from among the twenty-two men indicted in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism in connection with alleged activities of the Black Legion.

White succumbed yesterday to lobar pneumonia without disclosing his part in founding and fostering the terrorist gang. His body remained in a funeral home awaiting arrangements for shipment to Detroit for burial.

A cold, which White was suffering from at the time of his arrest near here last Monday, developed into pneumonia. Dr. W. F. Williams, Allegany County physician, said he was in a coma four hours preceding death.

THE NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office
DEC 1936

# Black Legion's Organizer Dies

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 20 (AP).—Isaac "Peg Leg" Stull White, arrested near here as the founder of the Black Legion terror gang of Michigan, died in a hospital today of complications arising from lobar pneumonia.

White died without talking about his activities in the Black Legion. He was captured Monday at Oldtown, a village near here.

White was one of 22 alleged members of the Black Legion who were indicted in Detroit several months ago on charges of criminal syndicalism.

NEW YORK AMERICAN
Forwarded by New York Office
DEC 21 1936

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McPherson

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## ~~Accused~~ Black Legion Founder Is Ill

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 16 (A. P.).—Isaac (Pegleg) White, reputed founder of the Black Legion terrorist gang, was seriously ill with pneumonia today in a hospital here.

Late last night, Dr. William F. Williams, Alleghany county physician, said White's condition was very serious and that he was running a temperature of 104. Dr. Williams said White's condition was such that it was possible for him to suffer a turn for the worse very quickly.

White was arrested near here Monday. He and twenty-one others face trial in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism.

NEW YORK SUN
Forwarded by New York Office
DEC 16 1936

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# KILLS OVER TAUNTS ON BLACK LEGION

## Pontiac Fire Captain Shoots Subordinate Who 'Talked Too Much,' Ends Own Life.

## INQUIRY LISTED HIS NAME

## Five of Cult at Detroit Get Life Terms in Slaying of Negro for 'Target Practice.'

PONTIAC, Mich., Dec. 4 (AP).—Fire Captain William H. Bradburn shot and killed a fellow-fireman and committed suicide today. He acted in resentment at taunts about his alleged membership in the Black Legion, according to Frank Nelson, acting Chief of Police.

Bradburn was named by a grand jury recently as a member of the society of hooded night-riders. His victim was Donald H. Slusher.

The bodies were found in the kitchen of the fire station Bradburn commanded. On the captain's desk was a note to Fire Chief Frank W. Kuhn, which said: "He talked too much. He should have been changed."

Nelson said he was told that Slusher had directed many jibes at the fire captain. He expressed the belief that the captain brooded over the taunts and the possibility of dismissal.

The grand jury named nineteen Pontiac policemen and firemen as Black Legion members. Police Chief Charles McMillan, one of those named, was removed by the police and fire trial board. City Manager William P. Edmonson planned charges against all those named.

Late today the police and firemen's board dismissed from the Police Department Sergeant Walter A. Pierce, former head of the vice squad, one of those accused of membership in the Black Legion. Pierce, who had been under suspension, failed to appear at the board trial.

### Five Get Life Sentences

DETROIT, Dec. 4 (AP).—Five Black Legion members convicted of killing a 42-year-old Negro for "target practice" received life sentences here today.

Judge Donald Van Zile of Recorder's Court pronounced the mandatory sentences on Harvey Davis, Ervin D. Lee and John Bannerman, all already facing life terms for the Black Legion "execution" of Charles Poole, and on Charles Rouse and James Roy Lorance. All were convicted of first-degree murder.

Judge Van Zile, commenting on the killing of Silas Coleman, Negro war veteran, May 25, 1935, told the defendants:

"It is hard to understand why you killed this man, who had never done anything to you and whom you did not even know."

Dayton Dean, Black Legion "trigger-man," also under life sentence in the Poole killing, had testified he helped entice Coleman to a lake for "target practice" because Davis "wanted to see what it felt like to kill a Negro."

Preparing for another Black Legion trial, Common Pleas Judge Ned H. Smith ordered three men held for higher court. They are Arthur Lupp, accused of commanding the terrorist society in Michigan; Charles Baker and Frank Howard. They are charged with conspiring to kill Arthur Kingsley, a publisher in suburban Highland Park.

N. Ray Markland, former Mayor of Highland Park, was dismissed as a defendant when prosecutors said they had no evidence against him.

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INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
June 3, 1936

*By United Press*

WASHINGTON, June 3.—Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings today revealed the Department of Justice has been aware of the existence of the Michigan Black Legion for "about a year."

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
June 3, 1936

WASHINGTON, June 3 (A.P.)—Homer S. Cummings, attorney-general, said this afternoon he has known about the Black Legion for "about a year," but has not found any federal law being violated by the organization "either then or now."

The attorney-general said Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne county prosecutor, has not furnished the justice department any evidence of violation of federal laws in the Black Legion's activities in Michigan.

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61-7398-A

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# KIDNAPING STORY OF FARMER PROBED

## Abducted and Hanged From Tree by Trousers, Alleged Victim Says.

By the Associated Press.

MOUNT CARROLL, Ill., June 3.—Reese Spellman's story that he was kidnaped and hanged from a tree by night riders employing the terror tactics of the Black Legion puzzled officials of two counties yesterday.

The 21-year-old tenant farmer was held in voluntary custody while Sheriff E. D. Shepherd investigated his account.

Spellman said he was whisked away from his Carroll County home at midnight Sunday by three men—two of them masked. He was driven 31 miles into Whiteside County, he added, and forced to remove his trousers. He said he was gagged with a handkerchief, his arms were tied behind him with a belt, the pants were looped under his arm pits and he was suspended from the tree.

He seemed near collapse when Otto von Holton, a farmer, found him yesterday morning.

During the period Spellman covered in his story, his home was destroyed by flames.

Sheriff Shepherd said parts of the recital "didn't jibe." Both Shepherd and Sheriff A. E. Hamilton of Whiteside County asserted the belief the Black Legion had no connection with the affair.

Spellman contended he knew of no motive for an attack.

WASH. STAR
JUN 3 1936

61 7392-H

# ARMY OFFICERS HELD ACTIVE IN 'BLACK LEGION'

## Cult Plotted Armed Revolt, Dickstein Charges in Demand for Congress Probe

Charging that officers of the Michigan National Guard and of the U. S. Army Reserves are members of the "Black Legion" and have been plotting an armed uprising, Representative Dickstein (D.), of New York, yesterday demanded a congressional investigation.

Over 6,000,000 men belong to the terrorist organization, Dickstein told the House. It was spread from Michigan into 11 States, he declared as he flayed subversive activities.

### *Reveals No Names*

Dickstein declined to reveal the names of the Army officers who he said not only have joined the Black Legion but used Army horses to train the hooded legionnaires in night riding forays.

Chairman of the House Immigration Committee, Dickstein pleaded for immediate enactment of his resolution which would appropriate $100,000 for a House investigation of the Black Legion, which, he said, is "sworn to bloodshed."

Collapse of Michigan police machinery in wiping out the "menace" was cited by the New Yorker as a reason for the investigation and possible enactment of new laws which would broaden existing authority of the Department of Justice in crushing subversive movements.

### *Long Known to Police*

Representative Sadowski, (D.), of Michigan, arguing for immediate consideration of the Dickstein resolution, told the House Michigan police were aware of the existence of the Black Legion as early as last year. He declared:

"The Department of Justice already has been approached on this matter. The Attorney General as expressed his views and does not see how the department can enter the case. He says nothing has been presented which would show a Federal offense of an interstate nature.

"Nevertheless, let us remember that the State Police of Michigan were aware of this condition last August when they arrested some of these men with guns, but nothing was done. The Governor of the State of Michigan has known about it. It does not look as if the State Police and the Governor of our State are going to do much of anything about the matter.

### *Linked to G. O. P.*

"The reason the State of Michigan has not taken any part in this prosecution is because these men have been affiliated with the Wolverine Republican Club and other Republican organizations. They (the Black Legion) have worked closely with the Republican party in about four large counties in Michigan and have been the backbone of the Republican party in these four counties."

Dickstein declared:

"What can the Department of Justice do? Make an investigation and then what? There is not a bit of law upon which they can prosecute and destroy this menace.

"I warn this Congress that now is the time we put the searchlight upon every organization in this country that is taking the law into its hands and destroying the background of this republic.

### *Cavalry Horses Used*

"It is very serious when you find men in the Reserve Corps of the United States Army, men in the State Militia of Michigan, a part of this group.

"When you find they take cavalry horses from the Army to use in their night riding, I say it is serious."

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WASH. HERALD

JUN 3 1936

# Black Legion Politics Probed by Prosecutor

## 'Republican Club' Formed by Night Riders, Is New Charge

Staff Writer Davis' Black Legion inquiry carries him to Jackson, Mich., a recent hotbed of the pseudo-Fascistic brotherhood.

By FORREST DAVIS
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

JACKSON, Mich.—The birthplace of the Republican Party in 1854 as a mildly radical political instrument, today witnesses the stern, public disrobing of a ragtag band of emerging Fascists who were out, among other objectives, to capture the Republican machine in Jackson County.

Jackson's case against the Black Legion—accused here of causing the death of one, possibly two men; of four floggings and three house burnings in the course of their bid for power—is furthest advanced of any county in Michigan.

Owen Dudley, Republican, a vigorous young prosecutor, deserves credit for Jackson's promptitude. While Detroit and other infected communities vented their amazement in talk, Dudley acted. He set up a one-man grand jury which is now in the thick of unfrocking the night riders.

### TO GRILL PRISON GUARD

"Brig.-Gen." Ray Ernest, suspended guard in the Jackson State Prison, fumes resentfully in the county jail. He is to be questioned tomorrow. In Ernest's home, police found a submachine gun, rifles, ammunition, robes and masks.

Ernest founded and headed the Citizens Republican Club, with which he hoped to capture the county Republican organization.

Today, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, Baptist minister at near-by Rives Junction, regaled Justice of the Peace Ernest J Rogers, the one-man jury, with his defiance of the Black Legion.

A two-fisted World War veteran and country preacher, Montague dared threats of Black Legionnaires at a midnight, pasture lot meeting last year. Invited to join, he went with friends to an initiation.

### BALKS AT OATH

The anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, anti-Negro biography of the speeches and the bloodcurdling medieval tone of the oath affronted him. He refused to take the oath, attempting to reason with the committee instead. Guns were drawn.

"You're wrong," he told the Black Knights. "I'm a man of God and willing to die." A detail of knights hustled him out of the meeting.

"Brig-Gen." Ernest, his brothers, Glenn and Ernest, and Allen Basom are to be interrogated tomorrow about the beating of Harley W. Smith of the village of Norvell.

"The General" in a torn shirt, clutching the cell bars, exhibited resentment over the Smith and Montague charges.

### WANTS TO MEET SMITH

"All I want to do is meet Smith face to face," he said. As for the clergyman, "If he says he was beaten, he is no man of God."

Napoleon is a village of 500 souls in Jackson County. Until the Charles Poole lynching outside Detroit disclosed the Black Legion's true nature, the terrorists boasted that all but seven adults, white Protestant males in Napoleon had taken the bullet oath—a gun pressed at their hearts.

The Hawley brothers, Erwin and Virgil, run a filling station at Napoleon. They already have testified in the flogging of Smith. Their father, Dite, a suspended lieutenant of guards in the State Prison, was "lieutenant-colonel" of the Black Legion.

Eight of the 380 prison guards have been suspended as a result of Black Legion disclosures.

### CLAIMS HUSBAND BEATEN

Ten grand jury subpenas are yet to be served. A witness, Dudley revealed today, will testify that her husband was badly beaten when he tried to quit the Black Legion. He is guarding her identify.

A visitor to this tree-shaded Michigan industrial city of 60,000—the usual midwestern overgrown county seat, with smooth streets, a luxury hotel, handsome movie theaters, modern schools and tall church spires—finds it difficult to believe that under the day-by-day surface of life here existed a secret move bound to any crime, not exce murder, by its ritual.

But in the courthouse, the g jury inquires into the Smith flog the death of Paul Every soon a he was beaten last year and a n terious death.

"We are looking into the case man found by the roadside," Dudley. "His skull was fract and it was dismissed as a hit-a run automobile fatality. But new dence has come to light which dictates he, too, may have bee Black Legion victim."

### FRIGHTENED INTO FLEEIN

Every's widow and son, the pro cutor said, were frightened out Jackson and now live somewhere Long Island, N. Y.

"The General" profanely indign over news that the criminal syn calist act was to be invoked agai him, disclosed the nature of his ca paign to take over the Republic Party.

"I invited 13 citizens from parts of the county and we form an executive committee," he said. told them the only way to get pris jobs was to get in to office. We we circulating petitions for candidat to the county convention when th thing happened." He condemned t Black Legionnaires, on trial for t Poole murder, unsparingly.

He likewise professed his eager de sire to "die for the Red, White an Blue, on any or all occasions.

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WASH. NEWS
JUN 3 1935

# ~~One~~ Man's Opinion

## by Hugh S. Johnson

**Johnson says swift attack on Black Legion is proof 'it can't happen here'; calls Townsend and Coughlin blocs more dangerous.**

TULSA, Okla.—Sinclair Lewis wrote a book called "It Can't Happen Here." The book showed how a Fascist movement on the Hitler plan could happen here. Then his wife, Dorothy Thompson, in her admirable column "On the Record," writes a piece called "It Can Happen Here," and uses for her text the revelations and rumors about the Black Legion.

With deference for the fine analytical thinking of both wedded genii, as a national menace to be dignified by attention so distinguished, the Black Legion is the bunk. It is a dirty rat's nest that should and will be stamped out. But to go from that to a conclusion that it is a forerunner to some American Hitler is too big a jump.

The Black Legion is no manifestation of a considerable American fascism or any other philosophy. It is a distorted outcropping on the lower ledges of the ingrained American j'ining-and-peacock complex. You can read about it in embryo in "Huckleberry Finn" and Tom Sawyer's boy robber bands. You can see it in its brighter form in the plumes, sashes, swords, dolmens, regalia, passwords and ritual of every "fraternal and benevolent" secret order—hundreds of them everywhere. Its basis is a bucolic yearning toward romance and away from the hum-drum, plus an excuse to be out with the boys.

Where some moron or worse perverts this tendency of belated adolescence to such sinister purposes as race and religious hatred and political action, it is time to take it apart and hang somebody. But the mere fact that this is going to be promptly and thoroly and effectively done is proof enough that "it can't happen here."

A far more dangerous regimentation of simplicity and prejudice than these murder juntos is the Townsend and Coughlin type of emotional bloc, deluded by eloquence or sophistry into crusading zeal for wholly destructive purposes of impossible idealism. You can hang a man for successful conspiracy to murder your neighbors because they are Negroes, Catholics or Jews, but you can't hang him for an impossible plan to keep your grandparents out of the poorhouse—not even if it does threaten to upset the country.

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WASH. NEWS
JUN 3 1936

R. E. JOSEP

# 'WHITE LEGION' COAST ROW PROBED

## William Haines, Film Star, and Friends Beaten by Gang

HOLLYWOOD, June 3 (I.N.S.). Sweeping investigation into activities of a "White Legion," members of which severely beat William Haines, former film star, and a group of his friends and drove them from a beach city near here, was launched today by city and county officials.

Deputy sheriffs reported they had questioned a score of residents of East Manhattan Beach, all of whom admitted membership in the legion and talked freely of driving Haines and his friends from their community.

No action will be taken, however, until further investigation, the officers said.

**Haines Blames Drunks**

The beating, which was revealed yesterday, took place last weekend. Haines and Jimmy Shields, film extra player, were struck down by an infuriated mob, and they and 14 other summer residents were pelted with tomatoes as they were driven out of town. Haines said today:

**"It was the work of drunks, spurred on by malicious gossip."**

Haines said he was at a loss to understand how the people could have become so worked up, but readily admitted the beating and added he had left the beach town for good.

Deputy sheriffs revealed that some members of the "White Legion" had come to them seeking a morals complaint against an unnamed member of the group, which rented beach houses from Haines. The officers said they refused to ~~hear a~~ complaint because there was no evidence.

**Stays Down When Hit**

The actual ~~violence~~ occurred outside a restaurant Saturday night, according to Haines and Shields, both of whom still are suffering black eyes and swollen faces. Haines said:

**"When they came up and told us to get out, I was surprised and started to question them. Then they knocked Jimmy down, and when I started to help him up, they knocked me down. I realized the men were intoxicated, and that to fight with them might result in fatalities, so I stayed in a prone position."**

The men and some women who were in the mob ordered Haines and Shields and their friends to get out of town in an hour, the former actor said.

After they went home and packed up and were driving through the town their car was pelted with tomatoes.

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WASH. TIMES

JUN 3 1936

E. 305

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THE DETROIT TIMES
June 3, 1936

# ASK U. S. SIFT AUTO 'SPIES'

Universal Service Wire

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The Department of Justice today was asked to investigate possible connection between the Black Legion and operations of company spies in automobile plants in the Detroit area.

Attorney General Cummings, to whose attention the matter was brought by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, told him that no showing of a federal question being involved had been made and for that reason the department could not take it up.

Green called on the attorney general to lay before him a letter of complaint he had received from Homer Martin, president of the Automobile Workers' Union affiliated with the A. F. of L. Martin wrote his organization had evidence to show that the Black Legion was responsible for the death of one member of his union at Hudson Motors.

Also, he said, the union had evidence of some relation between the Black Legion and an organization known as the "Dawn Patrol," with objectives similar to the legion. He furthermore wrote the union had collected evidence of close working relations between the legion and company spies, special police and other undercover agents of the motor manufacturers.

61-7398-A

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## *THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR ~~THE~~ G-MEN*

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES lost no time in calling for federal assistance when they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But the department of justice still recognizes the fact that national law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney General Cummings simply stated that the G-men could not step in unless there were clear indications that federal law had been flouted. Upon the state enforcement machinery the major portion of the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious political organization. For that reason local elective officials naturally wonder how many votes they will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It would be convenient for them to accept federal aid and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.

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# FARM YOUTH TORTURED BY NIGHT RIDERS

STERLING, Ill., June 1.—Authorities tonight sought to connect the Black Legion with masked night riders who early today kidnaped a young tenant farmer near Chadwick, bound him to a tree limb with his pants, and burned his home.

The victim, Rees Spellman, 21, was alone when called to his door. He was roughly thrown into a car, and driven thirty miles. His upper garments were fastened about his body, and the pants tied to a tree, leaving him dangling in mid-air.

Hours later he was found and released, suffering from exposure.

61-1391-A

6-2-36

# Find Kidnaped Illinois Farm Tenant Tied; Home Destroyed

Sterling, Ill., June 1.—[Special.]—Authorities of two counties were puzzled tonight over the kidnaping and "pants hanging" a young tenant farmer of near Chadwick and the burning of his home during his absence.

Tonight Spellman was in voluntary custody of Sherif E. D. Shepherd who was investigating his story. The sherif said certain parts of the strange tale did not jibe. The sherif said that while reputed methods of the kidnapers were the same as employed by the Black Legion, he doubted that there was any connection.

The victim, Rees Spellman, 21, was alone in his home last midnight when he heard a knock at the door. His young wife had been staying at her mother's since the birth of her baby two weeks ago. Spellman admitted a stranger who asked for road directions.

**Masked Men Outside.**

Suddenly the man produced a revolver and ordered the farmer to accompany him. Outside two masked men stood beside Spellman's car. They forced him to get in and drive through Sterling and Rock Falls to a point in Whiteside county, about thirty miles from his Carroll county home.

There he was ordered out of the car and his pants removed. Using the garment as a sling, the men fastened the upper part around his body under his arms and tied the legs to a tree limb. His feet, bound with his belt, swung several inches off the ground. His red handkerchief was poked into his mouth as a gag, and his hands were tied behind his back. Then the men drove away.

Otto Von Holton, Whiteside county farmer, passed near the place this morning and heard Spellman's cries. He unfastened the pants and let the exhausted victim down. Spellman collapsed from shock and exposure, but was revived a short time later.

**Thought Victim of Fire.**

An hour or so after the farmer was kidnaped his house burned to the ground. Neighbors, who arrived on the scene after the building was enveloped in flames, believed Spellman had died in the fire. They searched the ruins for his body before learning that he had spent the night tied to a tree.

Spellman said he could advance no motive for the act. He said the men hardly said a word to him and offered no hint as to their reason for kidnaping him. Authorities working on the case also declared they were unable to offer a theory for the attack other than that it was done by a secret band of self-appointed vigilantes.

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CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
6-2-36

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# Life in the Serpent's Tail

By Nelson Harding

So the Scotched snake isn't dead yet?
Though its head is smashed and flattened
By the heavy stone hurled on it,
Still the rattler's tail is writhing
In the manner of all reptiles.
There remains life in the menace,
And it must not be permitted
To revive and spread new terror.

WASH. TIMES
JUN 1 1936

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Asbury Park, N.

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EDITORIAL

## MORE WORK FOR G-MEN

The more enlightened citizens of Michigan have demanded that congress pass legislation authorizing the G-Men to go into their state and "liquidate" the infamous Black Legion. Once again, it would appear, the local authorities are incompetent to meet a menacing situation, just as they were powerless before the onslaught of the kidnaping racket Federal assistance, of the effective variety supplied by the federal bureau of investigation in bringing kidnapers to terms, therefore presents itself as the logical remedy. Certainly the Black Legion and similar terroristic organizations must be exterminated if American government is to survive.

But one difficulty arises in the plan to resort to the simple device of calling in the G-Men to break up a band of masked murders. Where is this process of letting the local authorities "pass the buck" to the federal bureau of investigation going to stop? High-priced police forces are maintained by all cities and most of the counties and states. Certainly they should be able to do something besides hand out tickets for illegal parking or locking up the town drunk. But if this becomes the limit of their activities and all the more urgent jobs are handed over to the G-Men the federal bureau of investigation will soon demand that it be multiplied in size to perform the extra duties which seem to be its lot. Meanwhile it is too much to expect that the surplus of local police will be curtailed and the result will find the nation's police bill doubling over night.

Furthermore, what about state's rights? Hardly a day passes but what a politician of low or high degree majestically exclaims that the federal government should keep its hands off the business of the states, implying that the 48 divisions of our government are able to take care of themselves. Yet it would seem that whenever a taxing job arises the states run to Washington for assistance. State's rights is a two-way theory. It implies that the states be given freedom from federal interference and that they demonstrate their ability to take care of their own business in a creditable manner.

Especially when it reaches the proportions of the Black Legion, crime is too important a problem to be fettered with lengthy debates on state's rights and other political issues. But consistency demands that if the states refuse to permit the federal government to close up sweat shops within their borders or abolish business racketeering, they dispose of not only these problems but also such imposing menaces as kidnaping and mob murder. The state's right principle is being scrapped, we fear, not by the aggressiveness of the federal government, but by the impotence of the states effectively to exercise their constitutional rights and the responsibility that goes with them.

61-7398

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# Today

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

**The Veterans That Remain.**
**Politicians Will Tell You.**
**The Palestine Troubles.**
**10,000 Tons of Cotton.**

**By Arthur Brisbane**

No one knows quite how that "Black Legion" really Some say 30,000 wear the sk.. and cross bones, privately, some say 6,000,000. You will get more exact information from the politicians. If they begin skirting cautiously around the Black Legion question, showing "reluctance to prejudge a body of their fellow citizens, etc," you will know that it is a BIG legion, with many voters, and that politicians are afraid of it. You remember how a Democratic national convention dodged all direct reference to the Ku Klux Klan through fear of hostile votes.

Universal Service, after investigation, says the legion members take a "blood oath" to kill their own relatives, if need be, to carry out their commander's orders "in the name of God and the devil." Universal Service suggests that the legion is tied up and works in harmony, with one eminently respectable national organization, but does not say which one it is.

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WASH. TIMES

154

# A Legion of Death—Cl

## *Masked Fanatics Ask End of All the 'Isms'*

### Communists and Fascists Are Marked to Die; Their Wrath Is Also Said to Extend to Catholics and to the Jews.

By Liam Lenihan.

Strange costumes out of the twilight of civilization, dark, giant-like silhouettes cast against the black background of the watching night, masks and banners and esoteric ritual, clandestine gatherings and furtive speech . . . Then wild rumor of swift retribution and with it fear—the fear of the enemy unknown, the dread of fear itself . . .

Such is the aureole of the Black Legion and behind it arise the grim ghosts of the past . . . shadows that lurked in the gloom since the dawn of Time to bring terror in their wake, phantoms that ever haunted the counter-eddy of the human mind. Primitive society heard the challenge from the gray mists of the valley, modern civilization caught the echo in the backwash of Main street.

**Members Drawn From Small Town.**

Most secret masked organizations are essentially a regression, a definite throw-back to the mentality of the savage. Membership is drawn mainly from the small town, for it is in the small town that we sometimes find the narrow outlook, the mediocrity, the small minds that are stifled by the deadly boredom of routine. And in that atmosphere of vacuity and drabness man finds stimulation in secret fellowship, in disguise. For the disguise of the Black Legion and the white hood of its mother strumpet, the Klan, renders man less an individual, more a heroic member of a uniform group, less a person, more a half-god. And disguise, too, is the expression of the paranoiac trend that is in each of us. For in masks we find courage to bolster our fears and in numbers enrolled, impervious to reason, dreaming of sway.

It was the death-knell of civilization in the South and so blindly, malevolently the white landowners struck back.

**Order First Formed For Amusement.**

Two years prior to this period of mob marching and unrest six young men who had seen service in the War of the States, organized, for diversion and amusement, the first "den" of the Ku Klux Klan in the little town of Pulaski, Tenn. The original name of their club was Ku Kloi, from the Greek word "Ku Klos," meaning band or circle. It was then changed to Ku Klux and Klan was later added. And since masquerading was very much in vogue the young men arrayed themselves in pillow-cases and stiff linen sheets. To deepen the mystery they robed their horses and muffled their hoofs and when black night fell they rode forth to startle the superstitious freedmen, who thought they were fearful portents of disaster from the nearby battlefield of Shiloh.

At first the whites laughed over the discomfiture of the Negroes, then noticing a change for the better in their conduct, they saw in the organization a panacea for high-handed tyranny. Thus perverted, the society spread like wildfire from Virginia to Texas and the first meeting of delegates from all dens was held in Nashville, amid acclaim.

**Tornado of Terror Sweeps South.**

Designating the Southern territory as "The Invisible Empire," the convention subdivided it into "realms," realms were divided into

# America a Blood Purge

## *Dread Society Claims Enormous Membership*

### Its Members, Scattered Throughout the States, Owe Allegiance to a Mysterious Leader, by Reason of Fearful Oaths.

that the suspects were members of an organization, calling itself the Black Legion, that Poole's death was a ritual murder, that the order had political implications, with a U. S. dictatorship its avowed goal, and that its tentacles spread far and wide with a possible membership of 7,000,000.

**Far-Flung Activities Revealed.**

Aghast, authorities instituted a Statewide manhunt throughout Michigan, and their quest swept on into other murders. Prosecutor Duncan McCrea found new evidences of its far-flung activities. Consulting his captives—some defiant, some babblingly hysterical—he looked over the coroner's reports for mysterious deaths and suicides of the last several months—and presently announced that new evidence had come to light in the sudden demise of 50 men who, he claims, had died merely because the Black gang did not will them to live.

Detroit was in a state of frenzied apprehension. There were ugly rumors that the city hall was involved . . . the police force . . . State officials. What are these people like, the citizenry asked, without the glamour of their death masks? Are one's relatives and friends on the list of men who signed their names in blood?

There were repercussions throughout the country, too. Somewhere in Ohio or northwestern Virginia lurks the Supreme One of the clan, whose name must never be mentioned except in awed and fearful whispers. Dubbed Shepherd, the Mysterious, police, making rough calculations, figured that dues from his robed and armed cohorts would give him the modest income of $700,000 a month.

**Leaders Dragged Out**

spiritual if not the actual heir of the dreaded Ku Klux Klan. Composed in equal parts of the slow witted and the malicious, its leaders were given fancy titles and a sizable cut on profits. Each recruit who wished to sit in judgment on his neighbor paid $7 for the privilege. In return he received a black robe, embroidered with skull and crossbones, was admitted as a private with full permission to denounce all and sundry whom he envied or disliked.

Now Uncle Sam may take a hand. Folowing the revelation that the legion had laid plans to kidnap the daughter of the Governor of Ohio, Department of Justice sleuths were called on to stamp out the murderous night-riders. Prosecutor McCrea, in wiring Attorney General Cummings, said he thought the racket could be wiped out if the Federal Government would invoke the Lindbergh law, its big weapon against kidnapers.

The Nation hopes such action will be taken. Poole died because he talked too much. Perhaps his death is not in vain.

**Furtive Figures in The Night.**

Tremblingly the neophyte listens. All around him furtive figures assume grotesque proportions against the inky blackness of the night. The wind whistles mournfully through the trees and dies with a weird lilting death rattle in the gloomy depths of the wood. Beads of perspiration gather on his forehead . . . strained, his ears catch a voice as it drones the oath of initiation and he hears his own repeat:

"In the name of God and the devil, one to reward and the other to punish, and by the powers of light and darkness, good and evil, here under the black arch of Heaven's avenging symbol, I pledge and consecrate my heart, my brain,

# —Child of the Klan—Offers An

*"In the Valley of the Shadow——"*

PHILADELPHIA EVENING BULLETIN
5-30-36

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Werdeck
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Carroll
Miss Gandy

## BLACK LEGION TERROR

If the Black Legion has done half the things in Michigan which are charged against it, the Michigan criminal code, State and local, must be competent, if enforced, to bring to book the perpetrators of such outrages. The prosecutor of Wayne County, who says that he knows of various instances where the members of this organization have violated Federal law, including the LINDBERGH kidnaping law, ought not to be wasting time seeking evidence that will induce Federal Attorney General CUMMINGS to take a hand and order out Chief HOOVER's public enemy hunters. He would operate more directly to the point, and with less difficulty, if he started the State law-enforcing powers at work.

There may be an interstate conspiracy, committing offense within Federal jurisdiction and warranting Federal jurisdiction. But it is a safe assumption that the major offenses have been committed within State jurisdiction, challenging the statutes of State authority. Appeals for Federal action may betoken supreme confidence in the efficiency of the Federal police. But by the same token they belie confidence in State law enforcement, whether it be in fear of actual incompetence, or of unwillingness to test the political issues involved. In other words the appeal for Federal intervention looks very much like passing a hot buck.

## No Amateurs Wanted.

Aside from their frequent miscarriage of justice, the hopeless inefficiency of untrained men who band together to supplement the law's efforts is well demonstrated in the news from Louisiana. Possemen, in beating through the wilderness to find an escaped convict, have shot three of their own number. Two of the searchers fired blindly at vague movements in the brush in accordance with their orders to "shoot to kill."

The order, in the first place, was rashly given. Not even police officers trailing the most dangerous maniac receive such unqualified instructions. Plainly, hysteria was ruling the sheriffs who organized the posse. Add to this the nervousness of volunteers unaccustomed to the business of man-hunting and the mistaken shots are quite understandable. But they may not be so simply excused—in fact, they never can be condoned.

Particularly in this country, where the vigilante tradition of frontier days still lingers, impulsive cries for revenge must be continually guarded against. At best, they open the way for such blunders as Louisiana reports; at worst, they result in "Black Legions" of the sort Michigan is now belatedly scotching.

Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7398-A

MAY 30 1936

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# Y Club,' S

**Capital punishment, gloomy and grim, extends to the Black Legion an invitation that some of its members will accept, whether they want to or not.**

That Black Legion, based on secrecy, cowardice, cruelty, race and religious hatred and **murder,** has been energetic in enrolling new members. Its rules for membership have been worthy of the skull and crossbones with which it decorates its regalia. A member must be "native born, Protestant, white, Gentile." Above all, the "native born, Protestant, white Gentile" must be **ready to commit MURDER if ordered.**

Here is another "club" formed by men to protect themselves from Black Legions, white Ku Klux and similar murder organizations: The Death Penalty, executed by JUSTICE.

Terms of admission to that club, as Black Legionnaires will discover, are simple: There are no oaths, no dues. It does not matter whether you are native born, white, Protestant, Gentile, Catholic, Jew or Negro. And the initiation is very simple.

You sit down in a chair, while somebody presses a button, or you stand with hands and ankles bound, while someone puts a rope around your neck, and a few seconds later you are a full fledged member. The Black Legion would do well to remember this.

61-909

Detroit Daily Times

MAY 30 1936

# Moronic Criminality

The "Toledo News-Bee"
Toledo Ohio
5-30-36

61-1399-A

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# NEWSPAPER GUILD AFFILIATION ASKED

## Board's Report Recommends A. F. L. Move and Urges Black Legion Probe.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 30.—The Executive Board of the American Newspaper Guild recommended in its annual report yesterday that the guild make application to the American Federation of Labor for a charter signifying affiliation with the federation.

Edward Levinson, chairman of the Labor Relations Committee, told the 200 delegates attending the guild convention that a majority and a minority report on affiliation would be presented today.

The delegates unanimously adopted a resolution urging Senate investigation of the Black Legion, and telegraphed President Roosevelt saying the guild unanimously registers its whole-hearted support of Senate resolution 266, providing for a thorough investigation of rights of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to bargain collectively. "Current disclosures concerning the Black Legion activities emphasize the grave danger to American liberties and the vital need of a searching inquiry into the denial of civil rights and the violation of democratic traditions," said the telegram.

The guild also discussed the case of Morris Watson, vice president of the Guild for Press Associations and former employe of the Associated Press, who charged in a complaint to the National Labor Relations Board he was discharged for guild activities.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Carlo
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7395 A

WASH. STAR

MAY 30 1936

## It Seems to Me
By Heywood
# BROUN

**No danger when hoods lift. Now it has happened here. Things silly and sinister. Probe of Fascism needed.**

NO HOODED GROUP in America has done very much damage once it was dragged out into the open. But there is sometimes a reluctance to tackle such an organization openly. The advent of the national conventions reminds me of the strange atmosphere that prevailed in Madison Square Garden when the Democrats met in 1924. The Klan was sweeping the country, but both politicians and publicists, with a few conspicuous newspaper exceptions, simply refused to talk about it.

Broun

The Republican Party was prepared to let well enough alone, and so were most of the Democrats. Even the foes of the organization were inclined to talk about "intolerance" and "bigotry" and name no names. Indeed, the spokesmen of the Klan had no objection whatsoever to sweeping declarations concerning "freedom" so long as no finger was pointed directly at the organization which they served.

But at last there stood up in the Garden a man from Maine named Pattangall. He began as the rest had done, talking in generalities, but then he raised his voice and said, "And when I talk of bigotry I refer specifically to that organization known as the Ku Klux Klan."

The rafters of the building almost came down. It was like the breaking of a storm which has been growling around over the edge of the horizon. The fight was on, but at least you could breathe the air. After a night session which marked the high spot in drama of all political conventions of our time the Democrats decided to straddle and omit any mention of the Klan. And yet the fight against the terror was really won in that convention by Pattangall's speech.

* * *

I TAKE with many grains of salt the assertion that the Black Legion numbers 6,000,000 members, and yet the problem which it presents deserves the most serious consideration and investigation. I believe there is a move in Congress to inquire as to possible "foreign" sources of infection. Personally, I doubt the existence of any Nazi tieup, although it is worth considering. But far more important would be an examination of the sources nearer home.

The fact that large financial interests in this country were willing to finance Talmadge and his race-hatred program shows that there is hardly any point at which the conspirators will stop. There is nothing fantastic in the Fascist threat. Sinclair Lewis may not be the great American novelist, but he certainly qualifies as the great American prophet.

I for one owe him an apology. Certain phases of "It Can't Happen Here" seemed to me to run into the field of burlesque. They didn't. The things he imagined have actually occurred. Indeed, when I look at a photograph of the Black Shirt leader I was inclined to say, "You're not real; you're a character in a story. Sinclair Lewis invented you."

* * *

RECENT developments have convinced me that there ought to be a campaign against the American sense of humor and an effort to found a festival to be known as Get-Rid-of-That-Silly-Grin week. We are disposed to forget that things can be both silly and sinister. Knaves and dupes and fanatics cannot be laughed off the earth.

An editorial commentator has remarked that the Black Shirt oath reads like something taken out of "Huckleberry Finn." That is true enough, but, even so, it cannot be taken lightly. Who could have seemed more silly than Hitler before he came into power? Indeed, who could seem more silly than Hitler today? And yet, he is no laughing matter.

We will have to ferret out Fascism even when it wears the guise of farce. America may have its own particular paperhanger who is a potential threat. Indeed, the men I fear in this country are those who are paper-hung. I refer to the group of political eligibles who prance into the arena wearing a garland of Hearst editorials.

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

MAY 28 1936

# U. S. SET TO MOVE ON BLACK LEGION

## But Evidence of Violation of Federal Law Needed, Cummings Writes.

By the Associated Press.

The Federal Government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion the moment it receives definite evidence that Federal laws have been violated.

If black legionnaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across State lines, officials explained, the "G men" will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Federal Government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury, the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated the Government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the Federal statute actually has been violated. He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McRea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

Cummings wired:

"As, of course, you are aware, the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes.

"If you have information that a Federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice at Washington."

There was no information today as to how soon Congress would come to a vote on a resolution, offered by Senator Benson, Farmer-Laborite, of Minnesota for a joint House and Senate investigation into "such terroristic organizations as the Black Legion" and other groups alleged to be "subversive."

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clark
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7346-A

WASH. STAR

MAY 29 1936

E. JOSEPH

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Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg

# Cummings Bars Hooded Legion Inquiry by U.S.

## Sen. Benson Asks Congress to Act; Intimidation in Ohio Charged.

*By the United Press.*

The Department of Justice yesterday declined temporarily to join the investigation of Black Legion terroristic activities because there was insufficient evidence that Federal laws had been violated.

Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecuting attorney, had appealed for aid from the Federal agents after his investigation of the slaying of a WPA worker by the night-riding band because he "knew too much" uncovered evidence indicating the terrorists were operating in more than 15 States.

Attorney General Homer S. Cummings replied that more information concerning possible Federal law violations would be necessary before the Justice Department agents could enter the case, but left the way open for throwing Federal men into the investigation by inviting McCrea to submit such information.

"As of course you are aware," Cummings telegraphed McCrea, "the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice."

### Congress Inquiry Nearer.

Meanwhile, efforts for Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and other "un-American" secret orders gained impetus on Capitol Hill.

A thorough inquiry into all such "subversive" organizations by a Joint Congressional committee was proposed in a resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Elmer Benson (Farmer-Labor), Minnesota. A similar resolution was offered in the House Wednesday by Representative Samuel Dickstein (Republican) New York.

Benson urged Congress to act promptly before "we awake to the day when our cherished American liberty will be a thing of the past." His proposal called for appointment of four Senators and four Representatives with full power to make a thorough investigation of secret orders seeking to establish dictatorship or rule by force and terror in the United States."

### New Appeal to U. S.

Detroit, May 28 (AP).—New appeals to the Federal Government to throw its power into the fight to uproot the Black Legion, secret society of night-riding terrorists, were before a half dozen governmental agencies tonight.

Resolutions demanding Congressional investigations awaited action in both the House and Senate in Washington, where the Michigan Democratic Congressional committee was drafting legislation to empower J. Edgar Hoover's Department of Justice operatives to strike at the black-robed order.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least 15 States, by proposing that the Internal Revenue Department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (Ohio) contractor, who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

### Cites Collections.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as selling them the death's head robes and other regalia they are charged with wearing on the midnight flogging parties of which they are accused in several States.

Postoffice inspectors were reported at work in Jackson, Mich., where five men are charged with beating a reluctant member with the heavy, three-pronged whips such as have been seized in several recent raids, checking reports that mail carriers there belonged to the order. One mail carrier is under suspension.

Still another Federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell (Democrat), of Michigan, who said he would ask that a Federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole, May 13, led to the fast moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

### Officers' Names Listed.

"We have no idea how deep inroads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piel. "The names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways, and eight employes have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio Senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston, officials said State detectives and Federal potal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bombs sent recently to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.

### Echo in Kentucky.

Still other echoes of terrorism were heard in Saylersville, Ky., where a number of floggings of both men and women were attributed by authorities to a secret society known as the "Black Legs." It was not known whether the group there was affiliated with the Black Legion.

Possible use of the Michigan criminal syndicalism statute as a weapon against the Black Legion was studied today by Prosecutor Owen Dudley, of Jackson County, who said the law prohibits any "advocacy of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political reforms."

61-7396-A

MAY 29 1936

# G-MEN MAKING UNDERCOVER PROBE OF CULT

## But Cummings Says U. S. Is Powerless Unless Federal Laws Have Been Violated

WASHINGTON, May 28 (US).—Attorney General Cummings tonight withheld formal Federal action against the Black Legion, saying the Government is powerless to take punitive measures unless the hooded band is found to have violated national laws.

Nevertheless, it was learned reliably in Detroit that G-men are deep in an undercover investigation of Legionnaires' activities throughout the Middle West to determine if Federal laws have been violated.

### *'Authority Limited'*

In Cummings' reply to a telegraphic appeal from State's Attorney McCrea of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked the Attorney-General to place a squad of G-men at his disposal, he said:

**"The authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest you submit it to the Department of Justice at Washington."**

Announcement by Cummings of a cautious policy by the Government in the Black Legion investigation came shortly after Rep. Lesinski (D.-Mich.) forwarded to the Department of Justice a bundle of letters from his constituents charging that high ranking Michigan officials have been actively linked with the organization of night-riding fanatics.

### *Dickstein Asks Fund*

Earlier Rep. Dickstein, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, called on the Senate to appropriate $100,000 for a special House investigation of the klan.

At the same time Sen. Benson (F. L.-Minn.) introduced a resolution asking for a joint Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and "all kindred groups."

The committee would be authorized to sit all Summer and Fall with the stipulation that it make its report next January. Benson requested $50,000 for the investigation. Lesinski declared:

**"It looks very much like the Black Legion has spread its activities into many States and that fact alone should warrant a Federal investigation.**

**"The Michigan delegation will make a strong plea that the G-men go immediately into Michigan."**

61-7391

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WASHINGTON TIMES
MAY 29, 1936.

# U. S. INQUIRY ON BLACK LEGION INCOMES FORECAST HERE

## TAX VIOLATION BY LEADERS SUSPECTED

### Unit That Put Capone In Prison Is Studying Michigan Reports

International News Service

An inquiry by the Federal Government into the financial affairs of Black Legion chieftains appeared certain today.

Elmer Irey, chief of the Internal Revenue Bureau's intelligence unit, whose agents sent Al Capone to prison for income tax violations, announced he will give careful consideration to reports from Michigan that hint possible tax evasions by leaders of the clan.

Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea requested the Internal Revenue Bureau to check the incomes of Black Legion heads.

61-7398-A

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**Appeals for Aid**

McCrea aso appealed to Attorney General Cummings for aid in running down members of the far-flung band. Irey said:

**"Agents of the intelligence unit in Michigan undoubtedly are watching developments in this case for possible disclosure of income tax violations."**

Cummings promised McCrea he would send G-men into Michigan immediately upon receiving evidence of Federal violations by Black Legion members.

Following a conference with Chief J. Edgar Hoover of the Bureau of Investigation, the Attorney General asked McCrea to forward such evidence to the Justice Department. Cummings said that up to now the alleged depredations of the legion do not fall within Federal jurisdiction.

**Resolution Passed**

Meanwhile, Chairman Dickstein, of New York, of the House Immigration Committee, and Senator Benson (F.-L) of Minnesota, said they will press for action on their resolutions calling for a Congressional inquiry into activities of the group.

Dickstein announced he had gathered "startling information" which he will place before the House next week. He added:

**"This information concerns organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred, and has come to me unsolicited."**

The Michigan House delegation also considered issuance of a joint statement formally condemning activities of the Legion.

# Battling Against Bigotry

## The Duty of All Real Americans

Credited with fifty murders in the cause of "good government," the Black Legion in Michigan seems to be an even more sinister manifestation of racial and religious hatred than the Ku Klux Klan from which it apparently originated.

From the Declaration of Independence to the present day, tolerance of others' religious beliefs has been the mark of the true American.

That is one of the fundamental tenets of Americanism, embodied as such in the Constitution, upheld by the courts, practised in their daily lives by all good citizens.

Unlike Fascism or Communism, Americanism grants full liberty of conscience to all people, whether their ancestors came here on the Mayflower or via Ellis Island.

Intolerance has no place in the American scheme of things, and homicidal fanatics of the Black Legion type have no place in America.

One of many reasons why that typical American, Alf M. Landon, possesses the confidence of millions of his fellow Americans is his courageous stand on this issue as shown not only by his words but by his RECORD.

He fought the Klan in Kansas, campaigned for the anti-Klan candidate for Governor, risked his political future because HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE INTOLERANCE.

For such a man there can be only admiration, coupled with the knowledge that if he is called to the Presidency he will STAND LIKE A ROCK AGAINST BIGOTRY, however, and wherever manifested in this great country of ours.

61-7348-A

WASH. TIMES

MAY 29 1936

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THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
MAY 29, 1936

# G-MEN INVITED TO PROBE CULT

## Cummings Suggests Sending of Evidence if Federal Statutes Violated.

## INTERSTATE TRAIL SEEN

### Detroit Prosecutor McCrea Charges Groups Active in 15 or 18 States.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (AP).—Atty.-Gen. Cummings today invited Michigan state authorities to submit any evidence that the "Black Legion" had violated federal laws as a necessary prelude to action by the federal government.

The invitation was addressed to Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne county, who telegraphed the justice department asking that federal bureau of investigation agents be assigned to uncover the terrorist order's activities.

**House and Senate Ready.**

House and senate members also took action during the day, designed to clear the way for the federal government to assume jurisdiction in an investigation and possible prosecutions.

The Cummings message, sent the Wayne county prosecutor after the conference, said:

"As of course you are aware, the authority of the department of justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of federal statutes.

"If you have any information indicating that a federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the department of justice at Washington."

**Interstate Activity Charged.**

McCrea in his message asserted that he knew definitely "that the Black Legion is now operating in fifteen or eighteen states."

"I know that it is very active in New York and Chicago," McCrea declared. "I am unable to investigate the evidence and for that reason I have sought the aid of the department of justice.

"I have reason to believe that the activities of the (Black) legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a federal offense. Many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

operatives to strike at the black-robed order.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least fifteen states, by proposing that the internal revenue department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (O.) contractor, who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as selling them the death's head robes and other regalia they are charged with wearing on the midnight flogging parties of which they are accused in several states.

Postoffice inspectors were reported at work in Jackson, Mich., where five men are charged with beating a reluctant member with the heavy, three-pronged whips such as have been seized in several recent raids, checking reports that mail carriers there belonged to the order. One mail carrier is under suspension.

Still another federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell, democrat, of Michigan, who said he would ask that a federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole May 13 led to the fast-moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

"We have no idea how deep the inroads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piel. "The names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Henrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways, and eight employes have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston officials said state detectives and federal postal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bombs sent recently to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Carroll
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnsworth
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Joseph
Miss Gandy

Enrl 85

61-7

17

THE ATLANTA GEORGIAN

# Black Legion Attacked by Klan Head

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, headed by J. Edgar Hoover, should break up terroristic activities of the Black Legion or any similar organization, "letting the chips fall where they may," Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku-Klux Klan, declared here Thursday.

Black Legion activities, he said, seem to be crossing state lines, and the federal government should, therefore, take a hand. This is especially the case, Dr. Evans said, because state officials seem to have become involved in the Black Legion affairs.

The Klan head said his organization had made a "superficial" investigation of the Black Legion, and all records and information which it possessed were at the disposal of federal authorities.

**'G-MEN SHOULD ACT'**

Initiative for the investigation lies with the G-men, he said, however.

**"That's what they are paid to do, and that's what they should do," he said.**

Dr. Evans said he had sent no formal communication to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Klan, he said, hopes the federal government will break up all terrorism, but is leaving active operations in the hands of legally constituted authorities.

Dr. Evans condemned the Black Legion vigorously for its "lawlessness" and declared that observation and enforcement of the law is the only course for American citizens to follow.

Michigan, he said, is a Midwest state, and there is much subversive activity in that area, in his opinion, which should be stamped out.

"The Leader in the March of Progress"

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1936

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clark
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7335

# Right for G-Men to Move Against Terrorists Asked

## Michigan Congressmen Draft Legislation for Smashing Black Legion

WASHINGTON, May 28 (AP)—A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic congressmen began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the group, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it.

"This organization is evidently interstate in its operations. It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal Government to stop this crime-fostering organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

Saying that the Black Legion might be tolerated in some of the "more backward foreign nations," Sadowski added that it has no place in the United States where the Constitution guarantees religious and political freedom.

He said he hoped a bill covering the desires of the committee could be completed by the end of the week.

A Justice Department spokesman indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, for a Federal investigation of the hooded organization.

Boston Evening Transcript
5/29/36

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# G-MEN READY TO START WAR ON VIGILANTES

## Awaiting Only Evidence Of Lindbergh Law Violations

## OTHER FORCES MOVE

## Criminal Syndicalism Law May Be Invoked by Michigan.

Washington — (AP) — The federal government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion the moment it receives definite evidence that federal laws have been violated.

If Black Legionnaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across state lines, officials explained, the "G Men" will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the federal government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

**Must Have Evidence**

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated that the government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the federal statute actually has been violated.

He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Michigan, who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

In Detroit it was said that Michigan's criminal syndicalism law, enacted to combat communism, may be invoked against the Black Legion.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County said today he contemplated the prosecution of 13 men whom he described as the "board of directors" of the night-riding terrorists in that county, under the statute.

**Long Terms Possible**

It provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of $5,000 for "advocacy . . . or teaching the duty or necessity of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism to accomplish industrial or political reform."

At least two grand jury investigations of the vigilantes were imminent, while both houses of Congress had before them resolutions demanding congressional inquiries.

Internal Revenue department officials declined to discuss a suggestion from McCrea that they inspect income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, O., contractor described by the Detroit prosecutor as a regional leader of the order. They said such suggestions always were welcome.

Although McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger sold robes and hoods to the Black Legionnaires, and collected 10 cents a month from each member, Effinger said at Lima that "I haven't sold anything," and expressed no fear of an income tax inquiry.

The Hartford Times
May 29, 1935
Forwarded by New York Office

Mr. Nat
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baug
Chief Cle
Mr. Gess
Mr. Coffe
Mr. Edwa
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forw
Mr. Hoch
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gand

61-7

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
May 29, 1936
Stephen C. Noland, Editor

## BLACK LEGION

Revelations that organizations similar to the Black Legion, unearthed in connection with a Detroit mob vengeance slaying, have been thriving for some time in several middle western states, are disquieting. Aside from one intimation that federal department of justice agents encountered evidence of the organization about eighteen months ago, nothing has been brought out as yet to show that it was the subject of official attention anywhere until the Detroit killing a few days ago. How a secret society so sinister in its purposes and methods could flourish for more than a few weeks without being exposed by the police is what puzzles the people. The explanation that in some places the police may have been in collusion with the organizers hardly suffices to explain the secrecy.

Such organizations gain a foothold only when there is a considerable feeling among the people that law enforcement is weak. When a group of masked men undertakes to usurp the authority and function of the police and the courts, it is either bent on robbery and violence for gain, or is able to convince law-abiding men that something is wrong in law enforcement. So far there has been no showing that members of the Black Legion were organized to break the law for their own gain or that they were engaged in shielding lawbreakers. Indeed, one of their reported purposes is to enforce the law according to their light. They assumed to correct what they believed to be the failures of the law and of duly constituted government.

To the extent that poor law enforcement inspired the growth of their membership, the situation can in a measure be overcome by good police work in breaking up the gangs and making cases against all that are guilty of taking the law into their own hands. In a free country the duty of every citizen dissatisfied with policies of government is to work for improvement by use of the ballot. No other plan can be tolerated. Terrorism in any form is a menace to free government, and to peace and good order, and its authors are enemies of society. The Detroit exposure is a warning to every community to make a complete investigation and govern itself accordingly.

61-1391-A

Toledo The Blade's Program for Toledo

Develop Mooring Basin.
Develop down-town water front park.
Enforce traffic rules without exceptions.
City purchase of Transcontinental Airport.

5/29/36

# Black Legion Hysteria Will Cool

PROSECUTOR REAMS says he has no information upon which to base an official investigation of the Black Legion by the Lucas county grand jury. If and when arrests are made or evidence of criminal activities by this organization in Lucas county is presented, witnesses will be summoned and a thorough investigation begun.

But no organization of so-called vigilantes, or avengers, or even of professional criminals, could have committed all the major crimes and atrocities which the police, the prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials in all parts of the country, now suggest may have been committed by the Black Legion.

* * *

And we do not believe for one moment that the Black Legion has millions of oath-bound, dues-paying members. Active as it may have been in a few localities, it is unthinkable that hundreds of mysterious murders and kidnapings and threats of violence can be attributed rightfully to its membership.

We have only words of condemnation for mobs or organizations which fan race or religious prejudices into flame and whose methods are those of violence, but out of the sordid Detroit murder story, a veritable nation-wide Black Legion hysteria seems to have developed. Some of the reports come from beyond the frontiers of reason. They overtax the credulity of intelligent readers.

* * *

Prosecutor Reams' position in this matter is sound and sensible. He will sink the probe quickly, and deep, when he finds something more substantial than rumors and guesses and gossip upon which to base an investigation.

Meanwhile the wide unfavorable publicity which the Black Legion has been given may serve at least one good purpose—that of putting another robed and hooded organization out of business.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Haughton
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Gaw
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

The Toledo Blade
Toledo, Ohio
5-29-36

61-7390-4

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# KLAN CHIEF ADVISES ENDING BLACK LEGION

## Evans Urges G-Men to Act as They Did on Kidnapers.

*By the Associated Press.*

ATLANTA, May 29.—Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, urged the federal government today to stamp out the Black Legion, hooded terrorist society.

"The federal government has brought kidnaping to an end in America," he says, "and if the same efficient men are instructed to go to the bottom of the Black Legion, they will end night riding in the United States."

Evans denied emphatically that any connection existed between the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan. A suspect under investigation in Detroit told officers that the Black Legion drew its members from among former members of the Klan.

"The Ku Klux Klan is opposed to terrorism and does not believe in any illegal action for any cause whatsoever," Evans said, pledging the Klan's aid in stamping out the Black Legion.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Benghman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MR. TAMM

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INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
May 29, 1936

# WATCH BEING KEPT ON BLACK LEGION

## Officials Assert They Have No Trace of Organization in Indianapolis.

Authorities in Indianapolis today held to a policy of "watchful waiting" in connection with purported Black Legion activities here.

Thus far not a single official of the county, city or federal government in Indianapolis has received reliable information that the Black Legion is even organized in this city, and none has been informed of any overt acts by stray members.

A calling card put into a mail box at the apartment of Miss Helen Benham, 656 East Twelfth street, Thursday night, was said to be typical of the type of pranks invariably following nation-wide stories on secret cults.

It bore the name "Black Legion," with the words Captain and Agent M 68 inscribed in one corner.

Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, said he had received copies of two handbills found Thursday by some boys. The handbills purported to carry the oath of the Black Legion, together with much of the organization's hocus-pocus. But there was no proof they were authentic and there was no flurry of excitement about them.

John Dowd, head of the department of justice office, repeated a previous statement that he had not heard anything about the Black Legion in Indianapolis, and that his department was not investigating anything connected with it.

Sheriff Otto Ray, who said his men had been on the alert for a county organization of the Black Legion, reported they had found no indications that it existed here.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Egan
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Farnsworth
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7098-A

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 29, 1936

# TERROR CULT HEAD HUNTED IN DETROIT; LOCAL PROBE OPENS

## Investigation Launched by Prosecutor Spencer and Police Department.

Chief Morrissey and Prosecutor Herbert M. Spencer today began an investigation into alleged local activities of the "Black Legion."

As a basis for their investigation they had three sets of six typed documents from the alleged Black Legion, discovered on the near North Side.

Chief Morrissey said:

"We will do all we can to suppress the progress of the Black Legion in Indianapolis. If our investigatioun calls for more men they will be supplied. The matter certainly merits investigation.

"We are going ahead on instructions from Prosecutor Spencer and will give this matter a thorough investigation. I am turning the information over to the homicide squad under Lieut. Roy Pope, since it seems that the investigation may lead to homicide cases."

Prosecutor Spencer said that any further information discovered would be turned over to the grand jury along with the alleged documents found by The Times and now in his hands.

Meanwhile in Detroit Duncan McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, said evidence has been turned up in the last 12 hours that leads investigators to believe that Vern F. Effinger, Lima, O., has been active in organizing the Black Legion in Indiana. McCrea said the Department of Justice, which yesterday agreed to asign him agents for the case, had now decided to withhold cooperation pending developments.

Miss Helen Bonham, 656 E. 12th-st, told police she found a calling card in her mail box last night on which was printed, "Black Troops Capt., Agent 37." This card did not resemble the other notes discovered elsewhere Wednesday night.

A seal was stamped on the back of the card and inside the seal in red ink was stamped "N 28. Other numbers on the back but not in the seal were "XX 9" and "N 28-27."

She told detectives she did not know who could have put the card there.

61-7397-A

INDIANAPOLIS STAR
May 29, 1936

# BLACK LEGION HOAX LIKELY

## Two Handbills Found in City Believed Work of Sensation Seekers.

There is no concrete evidence that the Black Legion is organized in Indianapolis, city, county, state and Federal law enforcement officials said last night.

Two typewritten handbills purported to be literature of the Black Legion, which were reported found here yesterday, are believed to be the work of "sensation seekers" intent upon perpetrating a hoax, it was said.

An alleged Black Legion "calling card" was found by Miss Helen Bonham, 656 East Twelfth street, Apt. 4, in her mail box last night. It was smudged with fingerprints and bore the printing: "Black Legion" and in the lower corners "Captain" and "Agent M 68."

Photostatic copies of the handbills were obtained by Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, last night and he said that an effort will be made to trace the typewriter on which they were written.

**Both Found By Boys.**

Both of the handbills were found by boys. One was lying in the street and the other was stuck behind a door knob in an apartment building.

The handbills were in two sheets. One sheet was an alleged membership blank and the other announced that members would call "in robe" to collect membership dues. The alleged oath of the Black Legion also was printed on the bills.

Officials point out that if Black Legion organizers had distributed literature more than two copies would have come to light. Chief Morrissey said that the police department has received no information of citizens finding similar handbills at their home.

Herbert M. Spencer, prosecuting attorney, said that in event of a law violation attributed to the Black Legion an extensive investigation would be made. Aside from the finding of the two handbills, he said that he had heard nothing about the organization being established in the county.

**No Evidence in State.**

Neither has evidence been uncovered to indicate that the Black Legion is organized in any part of the state, according to Governor Paul V. McNutt.

Sheriff Otto Ray and Capt. Matt Leach, head of the state police, said that nothing has come to their attention which would indicate activity of the organization in Marion county or any place in the state.

G-men here will not investigate Black Legion activities unless a Federal law violation is attributed to its members and thus far there has been no information received that it is operating in this state, John A. Dowd, chief investigator of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, said.

Mr. Ni
Mr. Ta
Mr. Ty
Chief
Mr. Ch
Mr. G
Mr. E
Mr. F
Mr. F
Mr. F
Mr. S
Mr. F
Mr. L
Mr. C
Mr. U
Mr. E
Mr. T
Miss

62-7375-1

# Black Legion 'Domination' of Relief Office Is Bared

COLUMBUS, O.—Transcripts of detailed testimony concerning alleged Black Legion "domination" of Allen County poor relief administration was made public today by Rep. H. T. Phillips (R.) of Athens County, member of the joint legislative relief investigating committee which conducted hearings in Lima last July.

Two witnesses told the committee members of the Black Legion were given preference in the granting of relief, were made foremen on relief projects, and that non-members were discriminated against.

One of these witnesses, George Armstrong, Lima, admitted under oath he was a Legion member.

While he was being cross-examined, Armstrong was said to have admitted Legion members took an oath "to kill their enemies, if necessary," and to "swear to a lie" to protect fellow members.

Asked if he had heard of anybody being killed, Armstrong replied, "I am not saying as to that."

He said Legion enemies are "anyone who would oppose them."

Armstrong, during his testimony, named three men he said were in control of Allen County relief work and legionnaires.

These were Guy Effinger, Lima, since identified as a Black Legion officer; Glen Webb, a Lima newspaperman, and William Zimmerman.

Chief Clerk

61-739-A

MAY 28 1936

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# Violent Crimes in Ohio Laid to Black Legion; Threat to Kidnap Davey's Daughter Is Cited

By The Associated Press.

COLUMBUS, May 27.—A report of three official investigators connecting the Black Legion with acts of violence in Ohio and blaming the hooded order for threats to kidnap a daughter of Governor Davey was made public today by State Representative H. T. Phillips.

The investigators, Charles J. Skill and Claude L. Recker of Columbus and Hubert J. Schwartz of Cleveland, aided a legislative committee which investigated relief administration in Allen County (Lima) a year ago.

The report, made to the committee but never submitted to the Legislature, was released on the heels of action by authorities over the State to connect various acts of violence with the night riders.

Meetings of the legion, the investigators said, were usually held "from 1 A. M. until daylight in an open field in the country."

"We obtained the statements of two men who had been officers of the organization," the investigators said. "They told where the meetings had been held and said one of the leaders bragged about burning down Twin Oaks roadhouse (near Lima) and that he was ordered to burn another roadhouse."

The State investigators said their informants declared the organization was "suspicioned of the threats against Governor Davey's daughter."

The Governor disclosed more than a year ago that threats had been made to kidnap his daughter, but he did not order an investigation.

Other acts charged to the legion by informants of the three investigators were the seizure of a motion picture film from a Lima theater, the beating of a man who was generally believed to have been hit by a freight train, and instigation of a Northwestern Ohio onion strike.

"We received estimates that 82 per cent of the Allen County relief administrative department, as well as the works division employes, were members of the organization," they said.

Their report mentioned also the alleged attack on William Smith, a 55-year-old Waynesfield farmer, and said that he was severely beaten because he was unwilling to join the night-riders.

Sheriff W. E. Kelley of Auglaize County said he reported the attack on Smith, an unwilling candidate for membership in the Black Legion, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but in Washington spokesmen for the G men said they had no record of the case.

A member of the Black Legion told a legislative investigating committee last July that its members swore to kill their enemies "if necessary."

The testimony was that of George Armstrong, Lima relief worker, in a hearing at Lima July 23.

Portions of the testimony follow:

Q.—I don't know if you want to answer me on this proposition, but did you become a member of what is known as the "Black Legion?" A.—I did.

Q.—And did you take that oath of the Black Legion, to tell a lie if necessary to support some of your members? A.—I did.

Q.—Now, was that organization connected with, lined up with relief in this county? A.—It was.

Q.—Do they swear in that organization an oath to kill their enemies if necessary? A.—They do.

Q.—And who are their enemies? A.—Well, any one that would oppose them.

Q.—You never heard of anybody getting killed, did you? A.—I am not saying as to that.

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ba...
Chief Clerk
Clegg
Coffey
Edwards
Gas...
Ladd
Nichols
Tamm
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# THE 'BLACK LEGION' HAPPENED HERE

Every week brings evidence that Sinclair Lewis was right: that a dangerously large section of the population of the United States is fertile seed for Fascism.

The most shocking disclosure to date is the existence of the "Black Legion." The claim that this armed secret organization has 135,000 members in Michigan is probably exaggerated and the statement that there are 6,000,000 members in the United States is certainly absurd. Nevertheless, it has been established that the "Black Legion" is a large and powerful force in several sections of the nation.

Even the "Black Legion's" responsibility for the cold-blooded murder of at least one man is not as important as the fact that **the terrorist organization arose out of economic causes and uses "patriotism" and religious bigotry as its rallying points.**

In its background the "Black Legion" reproduces part of the familiar pattern which led to the present German and Italian Governments. That its political program called for a dictatorship is significant of its similarity to European terror movements like the Brown Shirts and the Fascist street gangs.

The Detroit suburbs where it is strongest are those filled up during the 1920's by automobile workers recruited from the South, especially from the benighted and impoverished regions of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Ignorant, unable to adjust themselves readily to their new life, particularly to the insecurity of industrial employment, these men tended to band together for protection.

It is not surprising that shrewd organizers were able to restore a lost feeling of self-importance by pledging them to attack "Negroes, Communists, Jews and Catholics" and to defend "the laws and Constitution" of the United States.

**The fact that the first purpose is directly counter to the spirit of the latter will startle only those who expect consistency of such movements.**

The organization has indulged in threats, beatings and, apparently, killings. That it has recruited its members by "shanghai" methods is shown by the story of an ex-Legion member now running in The Post. It is significant that at least two of their victims were active in the automobile unions.

The fierce competition for jobs, the failure of the labor unions to organize these men with rural backgrounds, the labor policies of the industries in the Detroit region left them a prey to those who knew how to play upon their prejudices, their insecurity and their ignorance. The men who later became Hitler's Brown Shirts passed through comparable experiences before they were enlisted under the swastika through similar methods.

Detroit authorities have asked assistance of the United States Department of Justice in investigating the "Black Legion." The Federal Government should respond immediately. The sooner this thing is dragged out into the open the less harm it will be able to do.

America doesn't want and should not tolerate secret armed terrorist bands. But it will not be enough to break up this particular organization and imprison its officers. What of similar organizations which are reported operating in the Mid West, in the Far West, the South and, to a lesser extent, in the East? What of the Klan in Queens? What about Tampa?

For a hundred years organizations of this nature have played a sinister part in American life. Although they seem remote in their principles from economic aims, it is notable that they rise to greater heights during periods of economic stress and change such as those which preceded and followed the Civil War and that through which we have passed since the World War.

Was all well with the nation during the "prosperous" 1920s which produced the Ku Klux revival? Is the great industrial city of Detroit "fundamentally sound" today when such numbers of its workers will band together in armed mobs based upon terrorism and bigotry?

Or does insecurity here, as elsewhere, produce reversions to un-American principles?

61-7398-A

New York Post

MAY 28 1936

# PLOT TO KIDNAP DAVEY'S CHILD LAID TO CULT

## Black Legion Suspected of Threat to Ohio Governor by Legislative Probers

COLUMBUS, O., May 27 (AP).—State Rep. H. T. Phillips made public tonight a report of three official investigators connecting the Black Legion with acts of violence in Ohio and blaming the hooded order for threats to kidnap a daughter of Gov. and Mrs. Martin L. Davey.

The investigators, Charles J. Skill and Claud L. Recker of Columbus, and Hubert J. Schwartz of Cleveland, aided a legislative committee which investigated relief administration in Allen County (Lima) a year ago.

### *State Probes Violence*

The report was released by Phillips on the heels of action by authorities over the State to connect various acts of violence with the black-robed night riders

Meetings of the Legion, the investigators said, usually were held from 1 a. m. until daylight, in an open field in the country. They added:

**"We obtained statements of two men who had been officers of the organization. They said one of the leaders bragged about burning down Twin Oaks roadhouse (near Lima), and that he was ordered to burn another roadhouse."**

The State investigators said their informants declared the organization was "suspicioned of the threats against Davey's daughter."

The Governor disclosed more than a year ago that threats had been made to kidnap his daughters.

# Black Cult Formed 'To Fight Reds'

## *Member Says It Would Arm in 24 Hours If Revolt Started*

DETROIT, May 27 (AP).—The Detroit News quoted an informant identified only as a former member of the Black Legion as saying the organization was interested principally in suppressing Communism. The News' informant said:

**"If Communists started a revolution, the entire Black Legion would be in arms in 24 hours. It would take only 51 minutes to mobilize its force in Michigan. Policemen, sheriffs and politicians galore are members."**

The unnamed former member also said that Poole, although he was a Catholic, was a member and that he was slain because he "began making fun of the organization."

The informant added:

**"But when he was killed, it was absolutely against the rules of the Black Legion. It does not tolerate shooting. Every member of the group that was in on the Poole killing is in bad standing with the rest of the Legion. If any of them are released, they will be taken care of by the Legion."**

# DICKSTEIN ASKS CONGRESS QUIZ OF BLACK CULT

## Spurred by Revelations of Michigan 'Reign of Terror,' He Urges Probe Committee

By EUGENE KELLY,
Universal Service Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, May 27 (US).—Spurred by disclosures of the Black Legion's "reign of terror" in Michigan, Chairman Dickstein, of the House Immigration Committee, today introduced a resolution for appointment of a special house committee to investigate its activities.

At the same time Attorney General Cummings, asked by Detroit authorities to lend Federal aid in destroying the terrorist organization, said he would reply to Prosecutor McCrea tomorrow.

### *Threaten Congressman*

House members disclosed Representative Hoffman (R.), Michigan, had been threatened, presumably by agents of the group of terrorists. In a letter received here Hoffman was branded "a two-faced rat." The letter was signed "K. K. K.—look out for the hood."

### *Resolution Pushed*

The Dickstein resolution was speeded to the Rules Committee, where proponents of the investigation will push for immediate considration.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Carroll
Miss Gandy

61-7398

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## Bomb Sent Curley Laid to Black Cult

BOSTON, Mass., May 27 (US). —Possibility that the clock bomb recently sent to Governor Curley was a machination of the Black Legion, sensational Detroit killer band, was being investigated by State police here tonight.

## 2 More Slayings Blamed on Cult

### *Cleveland Police Renew Probe Into Deaths of Decapitated Men*

CLEVELAND, May 27 (AP).—Detective Inspector Nevel ordered renewed investigation of two unsolved slayings when an anonymous telephone message said to "Look into the murders of those two men and you'll find the Black Legion was responsible."

The nude bodies of the men, both decapitated, were found together in an isolated ravine last September.

One of the victims was Edward Andrassy, 28. The other body, that of a man about 40 years old, was not identified.

Mrs. Helen Andrassy, the slain man's mother, said a stranger called at her home the morning he disappeared and said:

**"Tell Eddy I'm going to get him for playing around with my wife."**

# Congress Asked to Probe Black Legion; New York Believed a Center of Cult

## Link Terrorists to Plot To Kidnap Daughter Of Ohio Governor; Plea to G-Men

## RURAL AIDES

*Developments yesterday in the investigation of the Black Legion were:*

Demand by Rep. Dickstein (D.-N. Y.) for a Congressional investigation of the organization.

An appeal to the Department of Justice for G-men to enter the probe from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit.

Charges that the Legion was highly organized in rural New York.

Revelation of a plot to kidnap the daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio.

Investigation renewed into deaths of two men who were beheaded in Cleveland, O., last September.

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# 'NIGHT RIDERS' PROBE ASKED OF CONGRESS

## Dickstein Demands Action on Michigan Reign of Fear Threat to Member Bared

By EUGENE KELLY

Spurred by disclosures of the Black Legion's "reign of terror," in Michigan, Chairman Dickstein, of the House Immigration Committee, yesterday introduced a resolution for appointment of a special House committee to investigate its activities.

At the same time, Attorney General Cummings revealed at his press conference the Department of Justice is maintaining a close watch on developments.

**MEMBER THREATENED**

Members of the Michigan House delegation disclosed one of their members, Representative Hoffman (R.) had been threatened, presumably by agents of the group of terrorists. In a letter received here, Hoffman was branded "a two-faced rat." The letter was signed "KKK—Look out for the hood."

Michigan delegates said the Black Legion worked so secretly they were unaware of its existence.

Dickstein, vice-chairman of the House Committee on un-American activities which last year uncovered distribution of propaganda designed to foment an uprising against the Government, announced he would introduce a separate resolution today requesting $100,000 to carry out the proposed House investigation into the "character and extent" of the Black Legion's ramifications.

**ACTION IS HURRIED**

The Dickstein resolution was speeded to the ~~Rules~~ Committee where proponents of the investigation will push for immediate consideration. With approval by the House, the committee would hold hearings all summer and fall, Dickstein said.

In addition to the Black Legion, the resolution incorporated the Black Shirts, the Christian Party and the A. B. C. Legion, of New York. All four organizations, Dickstein charged, are distributing propaganda intended to foment racial and religious prejudices. The A. B. C. group, he said, made Catholics and Jews an especial target of "malicious persecution."

**G-MEN GET EVIDENCE**

Dickstein said already he had uncovered "some evidence" in connection with the Black Legion's drive against Jews and Catholics. He said he would turn it over to the Department of Justice for investigation, if that agency possesses legal authority.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Blankenhorn
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7398-A

WASH HERALD
MAY 28 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Candy

# TURN ON THE LIGHT.

THE VILE doings of the so-called Black Legion form another challenge to the Senate, which is being asked by Sen. La Follette to authorize a thorogoing investigation into violations of civil liberties under the American flag.

Here is an outfit that admits itself an outlaw. Its alleged murders, arsons, assaults and terrorisms are directed against such minority groups as Catholics, Jews, Negroes, Communists and others. While the Michigan police appear to be doing a splendid job of tracking down the actual criminals, they probably will not learn all that should be learned of this revival of the old K. K. K. spirit, and of the peculiar breed of humans being gripped by its sadistic religion of hate.

Congressman Dickstein's proposal to investigate the Black Legion is, we believe, ill-timed. His anti-Nazi and other investigations have not been particularly fruitful of results in unearthing significant facts. The La Follette investigation could be better financed and better manned. A House probe of a single phenomenon would not only be a duplication but a dissipation of effort.

The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same piece as teachers' oaths, anti-red forays into campuses, vigilante and lynching mobs, anti-labor terrorism and the other manifestations of special interest racketeering wrapped in the garb of patriotism. It is the Senate's business to light a lamp and search these social rat holes. If it fails to launch the La Follette investigation and finance it with adequate funds it will have failed in one of its most important duties.

WASH. NEWS
MAY 28 1936

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Branchman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

# 'What if I Am?'

—News-Acme

"What if I am?" That was the answer of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, O., electrical contractor, when asked if he were leader of the "Black Legion," alleged secret terrorist society, in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Admitting he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan and evincing knowledge of the legion, Effinger, who resembles a movie "western sheriff," is said to have stated that the latter had 3,000,000 members. An Ohio legislator charged that Effinger was one of three who controlled relief in Allen County.

WASH. NEWS
MAY 28 1935

JOSLIN

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PHILADELPHIA EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER
5-28-36

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Daughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Scudder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

## *Act to Empower G-Men To Smash Black Legion*

**Washington, May 28.**—(AP)—A strong movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the committee, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not, then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it."

61-7564-5

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# U. S. to Fight Black Legion As Kidnapers

## Evidence of Interstate Violations Awaited to Put G-Men in Action

Washington, May 29 (AP)—The Federal Government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion in the moment it receives definite evidence that Federal laws hav been violatd.

If Black Legionaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across State lines, officials explained, the G-men will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Federal Government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury, the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated that the Government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the Federal statute actually has been violated. He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McCea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Michigan, who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

### To Invoke Syndicalism Law

Detroit, May 29 (AP)—Michigan's criminal syndicalism law, enacted to combat Communism, may be invoked against the Black Legion, whose members are accused of floggings and even slayings in the guise of defense against Communists.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County said today he contemplated the prosecution of 13 men whom he described as the board of directors of the night-riding terroists in that county, under the statute.

It provides for imprisonment up to ten years and a maximum fine of $5,000 for "advocacy . . . or teaching the duty or necessity of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism to accomplish industrial or political reform."

At least two Grand Jury investigations of the night-riding vigilantes were imminent, while both Houses of Congress had before them resolutions demanding Congressional inquiries.

Proposed legislation to curb the order was in preparation at the national capitol, and the Internal Revenue Bureau considered a suggestion that it inquire into the income tax returns of a reputed leader of the Black Legionaires.

Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea prepared to assemble for submission to United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings evidence he said showed the order is active in at least 15 States. "The hauling of bodies across State boundary lines," was one of his charges against Black Legionaires.

### Damaging Letters Shown

Prosecutor McCrea exhibited scores of letters today from nearly all parts of the United States, giving information about alleged Black Legion activities or expressing fear of terrorism.

It was because so many letters came from other States, McCrea said, that he asked the Department of Justice to help in the investigation that started in Michigan.

From Dallas, Texas, came a letter signed "A Member" and asserting that "the legion had Huey Long killed."

"In some Southern cities," the writer said, "where Negroes are lynched, the general says the Black Legion takes in 300 new members after one lynching."

In Pontiac, Mich., members of a hastily organized citizens committee said they had received evidence that Black Legion members held high offices in the local government.

Charles P. Webster, once a Democratic candidate for Congress and now a member of the investigating committee, said that "witnesses are being threatened with death if they talk to us."

### Blood Note Warns Police

Reports that fear-stricken members of the Black Legion were burning their hoods and robes were received today.

A letter, said by Detective Richard Bowen of the Detroit police laboratories to have been written in human blood, was received by the police department today, warning it to "let off the Black Legion."

The note, signed "The White Legion," was printed in letters nearly a half inch high, and was postmarked New York. New York authorities were asked to investigate.

The Detroit Free Press said it had information connecting Pontiac Black Legionaires, including a police officer, with a lynching in Lima, Ohio, about a year ago, but the newspaper said Lima police had been unable to find any record of such a death there.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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ber. I've been a nervous wreck ever since."

## 'Black Snakes' Probed In Indiana

*By The United Press*

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28—Sheriff George W. Gillie said today evidence in his possession points to a connection between the notorious Black Legion and the "Mystic Order of Black Snakes," an organization allegedly responsible for terroristic activities in Allen County.

Sheriff Gillie said several victims of the Black Snake order have recited stories of being haled before the "high tribunal" of the black-hooded and robed group and threatened.

A former township official and his chief deputy were said to be among the victims. They reportedly told of being threatened with severe beatings if they discharged two members of the organization then working under the official.

*By The United Press*

COLUMBUS, O., May 28—The Black Legion was suspected of having threatened more than a year ago to kidnap Gov. M. L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, according to a report of three special investigators for the Ohio Joint Relief Investigating Committee, made public today.

The investigators, C. J. Skill and C. L. Recker of Columbus and H. J. Schwartz of Cleveland, gave no reason for their suspicions.

The kidnap threat against the Governor's daughter was received shortly after he took office. She was guarded ~~for a time.~~ Miss Davey since has become the wife of Alexander Smith.

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# MINISTER DEFIED LEGION AT RITES

## Refused to Take Oath to Kill, Even When Guns Were Pointed at Him.

By the Associated Press.

JACKSON, Mich., May 28.—Charles Standish, a suspended prison guard who said he was forced to join the Black Legion, disclosed today how a minister, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, 45, of Rives Junction, Mich., defied the guns and death threats of the terrorists and refused to join.

Standish said he was invited to a "stag party" by a guard sergeant and that when they arrived at a grove they found 80 men, some of them hooded and robed.

"About 15 of us, including Mr. Montague and myself, were pushed into a line. Men in masks and hoods formed a ring around us and leveled pistols and rifles at us," Standish said.

"We were told we had been selected for membership in the Black Legion. There was one fellow wearing a robe who was bossing things. He began asking us the questions in the ritual.

"I was so surprised and scared I just said yes to everything. I said yes when the tough guy asked if we would be willing to kill if we were ordered to by the Black Legion.

"One of the men in the line didn't say yes, though. He said:

"'No; certainly not.'

"It was the minister. He spoke right out and it got very quiet. In a minute all the guns seemed to be right around the minister.

"The minister said, 'Just a moment. I don't believe in belonging to any organization of the sort this apparently is.'

Many of the men shouted "String him up!" Standish said, "but Mr. Montague replied:

"'Gentlemen, I've taught the gospel of God and if you are going to kill me, I'm prepared to die.'"

The minister was released after leaders at the ~~meeting~~ conferred.

Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schi
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Candy

61-7279-A

WASH. STAR
MAY 28 1936

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Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey

# America ~~Is Ripe~~ for a Dictator, States Harrison

Editor, The News:

THE recent disclosures regarding the activities of the Black Legion indicate on a small scale the kind of terror America must expect when "It Happens Here."

However moronic or misguided the members of the Black Legion may be, their ranks, like the ranks of the Klan and similar terroristic societies, are generally controlled by clever strategists.

The Black Legion is not to be dismissed lightly—to be censured editorially and then forgotten. The power of Hitler was recruited from just this sort of petty middle-class criminal and lumpenproletariat. The masses of Italy are now subdued by the same methods.

America is ripe for a dictator. We have probably had our last president. When the present Administration attempts its retrenchment and thousands of former Government employes, married and single, are turned out to search for miserable jobs in private employment—jobs that may never exist—these thousands are going to be ready converts for any dictator (unless the WPA continues), Fascist or Communist, and Black Legions will spring up ~~all over~~ the country.

JAMES HARRISON.

61-9398-A

WASH. NEWS
MAR 2 1936

# Senator Calls for Probe of Terrorist Organizations

WASHINGTON, May 28 (By International News Service).—A joint resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and kindred terrorist organizations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator Benson, (FL), of Minensota.

A special committee of four Representatives and four Senators would be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to investigate any or all activities of such subversive groups throughout the country.

A similar resolution was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Dickstein (D.), of New York.

## OFFICIALS ACCUSED.

Letters accusing high officials in Michigan of being implicated in the Black Legion's reign of terror were sent to the Department of Justice today by Rep. Lesinski (D.), of Michigan.

Because of the seriousness of the charges and uncertainty as to their truthfulness, he declined to make the letters public.

The letters were expected to be turned over to J. Edgar Hoover's Bureau of Investigation for study and possible action. Refusing to divulge any names, Lesinski said "they are higher-up officials."

In the face of an apparent reluctance on the part of leaders to authorize a new investigation, Dickstein planned to address a formal letter to the House Rules Committee asking approval of the resolution.

**"I expect to take the floor of the House on Monday or Tuesday and disclose startling unsolicited information which has reached me about organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred," said Dickstein.**

## WIDE INQUIRY ASKED

**"If the Townsend investigation was worth $50,000 to the House this inquiry I proposed would be worth $1,000,000. It is important because there is a native subversive movement in this country.**

**"I think I can link up the Black Legion with the Black Shirts organization."**

In addition to an investigation of the Black Legion, Dickstein urged inquiry into the Black Shirts, the Christian Party, the A. B. C. Legion of New York and the Robert E. Edmontson organization, also of New York.

He exhibited a circular purporting to be issued by Robert E. Edmonston attacking Jews. The A. B. C. Legion, he said, was sponsored by C. Lewis Forlwer of New York. Formed to promote "cultural and good citizenship," Dickstein charged that it has 50,000 members who are fostering anti-Semitism. He exhibited a circular assailing "orientalism, absolutism and Karl Marxism" in the United States.

## PROBE MOVE DEFEATED.

COLUMBUS, O., May 28 (By International News Service).—An attempt to force a Statewide investigation of the Black Legion was defeated today in the Ohio Senate.

The Upper House rejected by a vote of 16 to 9 a resolution introduced by Sen. John R. Davis, (D.) Cleveland, calling for appointment of a five-member commission to investigate the blackrobed secret order and frame legislation designed to drive it from the State.

Charges that the Black Legion organization in Lima, O., and Allen County, threatened Evangeline Davey, daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey, were being investigated today by a special joint legislative committee.

The riot-ridden McDull onion strike, the burning of buildings at McGuffey, O., control of 82 per cent of the relief organization of Allen County, and numerous outrages were laid to the door of the organization in an investigators' report to the committee.

The report, made to the committee which has been investigating relief but never submitted to the Legislature, was made public by State Representative T. T. Phillips.

Phillips declared that evidence showed that 82 per cent of the Allen County Relief Administration Department at Lima were members of the organization.

## 'SNAKES' KIDNAP

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28 (By International News Service).—"The Mystic Order of Black Snakes," a weird, hooded, night-riding band that kidnaped and threatened two township officials last night, is an agency of the infamous "Black Legion," Sheriff George W. Gillis said he believed today.

While he refused to reveal the identities of the kidnap victims, the Sheriff said they had been seized on the street here, forced into an automobile, and carried before 12 hooded, armed men seated upon a "crescent shaped throne." Other hooded figures

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# Black Legion Blame Put on Public

## Murder Bonds' Growth Is Laid on Tolerance of Intolerance.

BY DOROTHY THOMPSON.

"I AM very remorseful. It's a funny thing, but I never had a feeling that I wanted to kill anybody that I can remember. I was under an illusion. I didn't have any idea what I was getting into when I joined up two years ago."

The speaker was Dayton Dean, a city employe of Detroit, who was admitting to the peculiarly horrible murder of Charles A. Poole, a W. P. A. worker of the same town on the date of May 13.

Dorothy Thompson

"We wanted it to be a necktie party with ropes and regalia," said Dean. "That would make it more impressive. But some of the cars got lost. We got tired of waiting, and so I shot him. I thought it was my job."

And with the death of Poole the Michigan police authorities began an investigation, which in the last few days has uncovered a fantastic organization, running across State lines, of yet undiscovered ramifications, of "white male Protestants," pledged to "defend the United States and the Constitution"; to dominate politics in city and county and State; to exterminate anarchists, Communists, Catholics, Negroes and Jews; to restrict immigration and deport all undesirable aliens; to support and participate in lynch law; to arm its members for civil war, while pledging them by a blood oath to absolute secrecy and absolute obedience to their superiors, and eventually, to establish a dictatorship in America.

See in your imaginations these men, gathered together at night, in some remote place. They wear black or white hoods to conceal their faces. They wear black or white robes—purchased from the organization, worth $1.25, price $7. Guards with pointed revolvers cover them. They are addressed by a chaplain, the servant of "white protestantism."

"Remember," he whispers, "Our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies. Mercy . . . has no place in the fighter's outfit. We recognize but one power (death) to separate us in the hour of peril . . . we are bound by ties stronger than honor."

They are questioned by the commanding officer: "Do you believe in a Supreme Being? A future reward, and punishment? Can you ride a horse, drive a car, shoot a rifle? Do you believe in white supremacy? Would you lie if ordered by your superior? You may be required to do some service on a higher plane than ordinary night riding. And for that you must take an oath in blood."

They scratch their arms and swear the black oath, the blood oath. They accept for themselves "for roof the sky, bed the earth, and for reward death."

Who are these men, standing in the darkness, swearing such oaths, later to be translated into action? "Good people from all walks of life who were brought to their senses when communism and other isms invaded the United States from other countries," their leader, a Michigan milk inspector, Arthur Lupp, testified. Who are these men? Poor folk. Hill billies from the mountains of the South invading Detroit looking for work. "One purpose was to get jobs for members." None of those questioned were unemployed. Several said they had got jobs through other members. Whom do they hate? Life, which has treated them badly. Who is to blame? Some scapegoat is to blame. The niggers, working in the fields that should be theirs. Or the Jews. Do they not keep the prosperous shops? Or the Communists . . . aren't some of the papers full of the Communist peril? Or the trade unionists, who enlist the skilled and leave the unskilled. Or the Catholics, who have a pope in Rome.

They are the poor, the credulous, the violent; little men, full of confused hatred. They are the gullible. The organization, they are told, dates back to Revolutionary days. It has 13 officers, representing the 13 original colonies. They have a direct link with the Ku Klux Klan and its old night riders.

### Unaware of True Purpose.

They come into the organization unaware of its true purpose. They sign a simple pledge, joining an order to uphold the Constitution. They are lured into it by appeal to their basic racial prejudices and with promises of recreational activities and business help. The rest is forced upon them. Betrayal of secrets is death. They are now members of a gang.

The organization is not confined to Michigan. There was that affair a short time ago in Florida. The Toledo Blade reports the existence of the movement in Ohio. Echoes of it are everywhere. They are on my desk in the Herald Tribune. Here is Mr. Robert Edward Edmondson of Washington, who invites me to join the "Christian Vigilantes." He writes:

Dear Madam: These two pamphlets are sent by Post 22 of the Christian Vigilantes, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who was foully murdered by the Jew kikes. Over 170,000 copies of these two pamphlets have been distributed in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Death to the Jew infested League of Nations! Hell Hitler!

Motto (says Mr. Edmondson) please learn by heart: Christian Nordic white America will, in the spirit of Hitler, keep the Jews and niggers in their place of Jim Crow inferiority.

### Invited to Enlist in War.

And he invites me to enlist in a war "against Jews, niggers, Japs, Chinese, all other colored un-Aryan swine, communists, pacifists, strikers, internationalists, under the radiant cross of Jesus.

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.

Or here is another correspondent, who informs me that I am only one of many thousands who have been circularized with the information that the murder of the Lindbergh baby was performed as an act of ritual by Jews to revenge against the Gentile world!

What can be done about it?

J. Edgar Hoover says the Federal Government can do nothing. The Federal police can participate in action to apprehend kidnappers who have taken a person across State lines to hold him for ransom. But the Lindbergh law, it is argued, does not permit the Federal Government to track down those who kidnap and kill, not for gain, but because the superior has ordered it; because the victim is a Catholic or a Jew! It is forbidden to send obscene postal cards in the mails, but not literature enlisting my co-operation against a whole class of American citizens, and suggesting civil war. States reserve to themselves, under the Constituton, the right to lynch their own minorities. What the Federal Government can do, however, under the law is to investigate! Let us at least find out how widespread, how numerous are these murder bands!

Who is to blame? You and I are to blame. All of us who listen tolerantly to intolerant expressions of racial and religious prejudice, without registering our own indignation against such un-American ideas. All of us who tolerate without protest the theory that any man who strikes for better wages is a dangerous radical. All of us who accept lies which we are able to contradict. All of us who sit smugly by and think that it can't happen here!

(Copyright, 1936.)

61-734-A

STAR

MAY 28 1936

# G-MEN SOUGHT FOR PROBE OF BLACK LEGION

## Bill Clothing Them with Needed Power To Be Introduced

Washington —(AP)— A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began drafting legislation to allo wthe agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the committee, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it."

### At the Meeting

Meeting with Sadowski, who represents the first Michigan Congressional District located in Detroit, were:

Representatives Prentiss M. Brown, Frank E. Hook, Louis C. Rabaut, John D. Dingell and John Lesinski.

"This organization is evidently interstate in its operations," asserted Sadowski. "It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal government to stop this crime-fostering organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

### Want Thorough Probe

"The meeting of the Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee," said the Representatives, "was called to demand a thorough investigation and to draft legislation which will bring organizations such as the Black Legion under jurisdiction of the federal government."

He said he hoped a bill covering the desires of the committee could be completed by the end of the week.

A justice department spokesman indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detriot prosecutor, for a federal investigation of the society of hooded members.

Detroit—(AP)—The Black Legion, which guarded its secrets with scourge and pistol and boasted that it could mobilize millions of armed men in 24 hours, was the center of the new investigations today.

The "mobilization," Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said members told him, was to be ordered in the event of a Communist uprising.

The Wayne County Circuit Bench planned to decide by mid-day whether to order the Grand Jury investigation asked by Michigan's Attorney General David H. Crowley of violent deaths, floggings, and firing of buildings in the metropolitan area.

In Cleveland, police reopened their investigations of two unsolved deaths after an anonymous caller had blamed the Black Legion.

### Threat to Davey

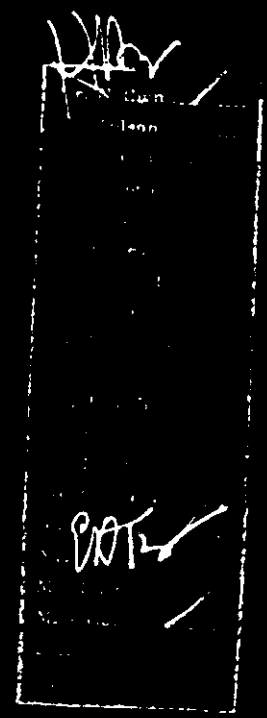
In Columbus, O., records of a legislative investigation a year ago disclosed an allegation that the night riders were responsible for threats to kidnap Governor Martin L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, among other acts of intimidation and violence.

In Pontiac, Mich., a citizens' committee undertook an investigation of reports ascribing two deaths, a flogging and the burning of homes of at least two suspected Communists to a secret organization similar to, if not affiliated with the Black Legion.

V. F. Effinger, of Lima, O., spokesman for the national organization of the legion, claimed a total membership of 6,000,000 the country over.

Prosecutor McCrea said he had received letters from persons in 15 or 18 states, among them Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and Colorado ascribing acts of intimidation or violence to the robed and hooded order.

Upon those letters he based his appeal to United States Attorney General Cummings late yesterday for a federal investigation.



The Hartford Times
May 28, 1936
Forwarded by New York Office

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 28, 1936

# G-MEN BEING SENT HERE BY DETROIT AUTHORITIES; TERRORIST NOTES FOUND

## Fort Wayne WPA Worker Pleads for Police Protection.

BULLETIN

Municipal Judge Dewey Myers of Indianapolis said today that citizens in northern Indiana were "up in arms" against the operations of the Black Legion.

"I have just returned from a three-day visit to the northern part of the state, and I know that the Black Legion has been operating there," Judge Myers said.

"The members are 'toughs,' and the authorities there are making an investigation to determine to what extent the organization is operating there.

"It is a terrible thing, and the good citizens of the northern part of the state are up in arms against the Black Legion. I am sure that the good citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County will be the same."

*By United Press*

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., May 28.—A convicted Indiana township official today revealed alleged terrorist activities of an organization known to him as the "Black Knights" which operated in Fort Wayne.

Lawrence F. Hoeltje, former Wayne Township assessor, blamed the "Black Knights" for his conviction on a charge of accepting bribes. He said he refused to carry on their demands and was "too scared" at the time of his trial to reveal their threats.

Marion County Grand Jury investigation of alleged Black Legion activities in Indianapolis was pledged today by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer.

* * *

"G-men" are being sent here to investigate "Black Legion" notes uncovered by The Indianapolis Times, Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit announced.

* * *

Municipal Judge Dewey Myers, following a trip to northern Indiana, said the Black Legion is active there and that the "good citizens" of that section "are up in arms" against it.

* * *

Fort Wayne sheriff probes reported kidnaping of two men by "Mystic Order of Black Snakes."

* * *

Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and similar secret orders is requested by Senate resolution, following corresponding House resolution.

* * *

Ohio Senate defeats resolution to investigate state activities of Black Legion.

## Messages Promise Calls Will Be Made 'at Night in Robe.'

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indianapolis Times)

A grand jury investigation into alleged "Black Legion" activities in Marion County was promised by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer following disclosures today by The Indianapolis Times that purported "Black Legion" documents had been served on Indianapolis citizens.

At the same time Duncan McCrea, Wayne County (Mich.) prosecutor, informed of Indianapolis developments, promised an immediate investigation here by United States Department of Justice agents assigned to his office for interstate duty in the investigation.

Mayor Kern said the city will do everything in its power to prevent the "Black Legion" from operating here. Chief Morrissey and Sheriff Otto Ray invited any one having "Black Legion" information to give it to police authorities.

The local anti-Black Legion activity was set off today with publication in The Times that two sets of purported "Black Legion" notes had been delivered last night to apartment doors of near North Side apartment houses.

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

61-7398-A

The notes promised the occupants that representatives of "The Black Legion" would call "at night in robe" to accept their memberships.

Prosecutor McCrea, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Black Legion documents now in possession of Detroit authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Black Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings.

**"Sound Authentic," He Says**

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents, assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle.

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Black Legion is organized there and has been responsible for at least one outrage.

"There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches. On it was typewritten what was interpreted to be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership." There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both city and state.

**"Death Is Penalty"**

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"In the name of God and the Devil I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abid (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets or its ex-members.

"Death is the penalty for the breaking of a law or its oath."

This was followed on one note by the designation "611X7" and a blank preceded the word "Rank." The other note bore the number "610X7."

Last of all, at the bottom, appeared 'Black Legion-611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must reorganize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and race on through the night and show them haw (apparently typing error) it is done.

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up We must make the symbol of the skull and cross-bones the terror of the world.

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 28, 1936

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please signup now!"

"A Lieutenant will call at your house soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

"MAJOR 29K1."

**Imprint of Stamp**

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.

At the same time, Lima (O.) authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion in their possession indicate that the organization went by various names in the different states, and were designated as "Red Legs" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "The Black Snakes."

*By United Press*

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28.—A frightened WPA worker today pleaded for police protection from Black Legion vengeance and told Sheriff George W. Gillie of plans for a secret meeting of the black-hooded terrorists tomorrow night.

At the same time, Sheriff Gillie confirmed a tale of terrorism related today by Lawrence F. Hoeltje, former Wayne Township assessor serving a term for bribery in prison at Michigan City.

"We are going to make a thorough investigation and question members of the organization named by Hoeltje, as well as all others whose identity we can learn," Gillie said.

**Says Hands Are Tied**

The sheriff admitted that at present his hands are tied because no acts of violence have been laid at the Black Legion's door to serve as a basis for formal charges.

"What can we do?" he asked. "Even if we do find out where the meeting is going to be tomorrow night, we haven't anything to charge them with."

Those named by Hoeltje as members of the Black Legion, and who will be questioned first by Gillie are Heldon W. Wollman, former deputy township assessor; Jim Joseph, said by Hoeltje to have been the leader of the group which threatened him; William Stute, who owned the woods in which Hoeltje said Black Legion meetings were held.

# FEDERAL HELP SOUGHT AGAIN

## Detroit Prosecutor Suggests Inquiry by Internal Revenue Men.

*By United Press*

DETROIT, May 28. — Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea today made a second attempt to enlist the aid of Federal officials in his investigation of the Black Legion when he requested the Department of Internal Revenue to inquire into the source of income of Vergil F. Effinger, Lima, O., alleged district commander of the secret organization.

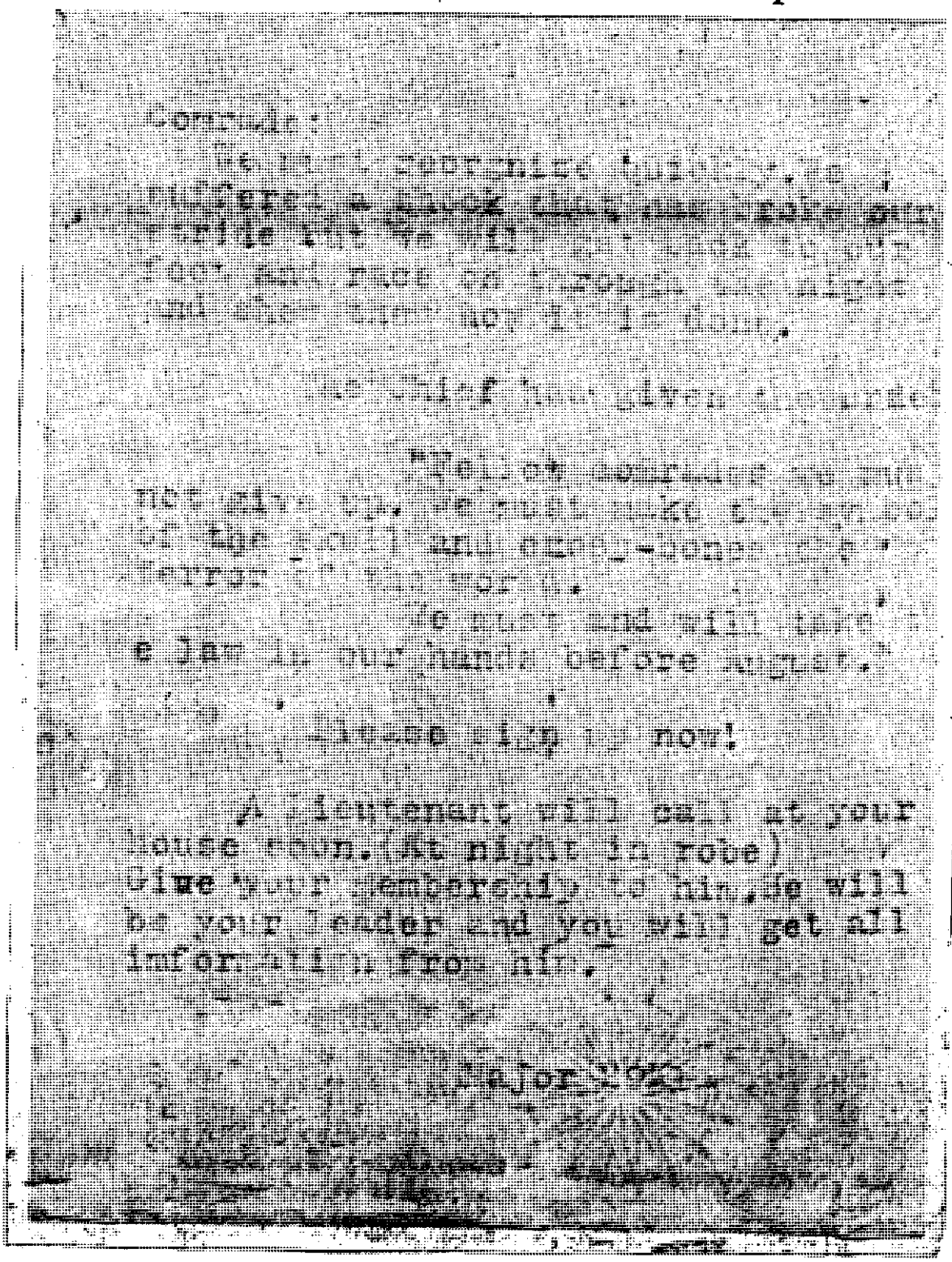
In a letter to Guy T. Helvering, Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, McCrea requested an investigation of Effinger's income, emphasizing that he undoubtedly received money from the sale of the black hoods and robes used by the terrorist band, and from the dues of thousands of members in his district comprising Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Yesterday McCrea asked aid of Atty Gen. Homer Cummings.

While Detroit police officials pursued their inquiry into reports that five members of the department were members of the Black Legion, Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson sought to involve Effinger on charges of criminal syndicalism in that county.

The Jackson County Grand Jury reopened its hearings into charges of floggings, arson and kidnapings today. As a result of its findings, Dudley said Effinger would be charged with criminal syndicalism because he had appeared in the county last summer in connection with the Black Legion's activities.

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 28, 1936

# 'Black Legion' Message Found at Apartments



Comrade:

[illegible]

[illegible] now!

A lieutenant will call at your house soon. (At night in robe) Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

Major [illegible]

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